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The Veterinary Colleges of the World: A Comparison.*

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Before commencing my address, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to the Central Veterinary Society a very hearty invitation to hold their meetings within the precincts of this College when it should suit their convenience to do so.

I have purposely selected as the title of my address to the Fellows of the Central Division of the National Veterinary Association, this evening, "The Veterinary Colleges of the World," illustrated by the aid of the epidiascope, because I want to demonstrate to you (the most influential and numerous of all the Divisions of the "National") the comparisons which can be made by visits to the educational centres of veterinary science in Continental countries which are only a few hours away; and because, too, the time has now arrived for this old school of ours—(the pioneer veterinary college, not merely of Great Britain and Ireland, but of our Colonies and all the English-speaking countries)—to assert its right for Government assistance, in addition to the loyal support of its graduates and the friends of sick animals, in order to rebuild it in a manner which will bring it up-to-date and make the "Royal" Veterinary College not only worthy of its Royal patron and the distinguished names on its Board of Governors, but worthy of taking its place as the representative of the British Empire amongst all the Colleges of the world.

It is only financial aid we ask for—the graduates of the profession can do all the rest—but it is neither fair on the staff nor the profession for the Government and the Public to expect that we can compete with the progress of veterinary science in other countries when their veterinary schools are efficiently endowed and State supported on an equality with human medicine, law, engineering and all the other learned professions, and in Great Britain we are left to do as best we can by private enterprise. Is it not an anomaly—a curious anomaly—that in England, *the* most animal-loving country of the world, the one country, too, to which all other countries send for their best pedigree stock of all kinds—veterinary science, the only science which can cater properly for the preservation of animals in health, should be so scandalously neglected? It really is a scandal, and the London College is open evidence of this neglect. In fact, it is marvellous when you look around the old, antiquated, tumbledown premises which constitute the Royal Veterinary College, that students are turned into graduates who hold their own, not only in every part of the British Empire, but in every part of the world—at any rate in the practical part of their profession. As administrators we hold our own, too, for that is the character of the British, but in scientific research our opportunities are nothing like those of our Continental neighbours—and when I show you, as I shall presently, by means of the epidiascope, a selectionfrom the wonderful buildings and completely-equipped colleges of Germany, France, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Italy and America, you will, I am sure, easily understand how the progress of veterinary science in other countries is encouraged and made comparatively easy, and on a *par* with that of our brothers in human medicine and the allied sciences.

It is not, too, only in buildings and equipment that our Continental *confrères* have the pull over us—most of them have a University status which has only recently, and in a patchy fashion, been granted to us, and the teachers who occupy the professional chairs have a safe tenure of office so that they can settle down to specialise and "make good" in their own respective branches, with the knowledge that their salary is assured for life, and with a satisfactory pension at a certain age of retirement. Not only have they this assurance, but a certain sum is allotted every year for replenishment of equipment or for new things, to be spent at their discretion—their laboratories are not at all stunted to begin with, and they all have one or more qualified assistants who are trained helpers, the chief one of whose pay is sufficient to induce him to stay for some years with his chief, and thus to specialise. For these men there is always the advantage of the chance of selection for any vacant professional chair, as being a man who is already trained to the subject, and who has some of the proper and necessary kind of experience to back his application.

Can one wonder that for our student text-books we have to rely so much on translations from our foreign colleagues—and that we have so few originals? The British veterinary graduate cannot, as a rule, afford to wait some years in poverty—not only pecuniary poverty, but poverty of equipment. It is not to be expected; and many a good research worker in veterinary science, with good, original ideas, is lost to his profession by the necessity to go into practice or to some practical post, merely because this offers a livelihood; whereas, had he but been a German, a Dutchman, a Frenchman, an Italian, a Dane, a Swede, or a Pole, to mention only a few, he would have had pure science at his feet, and in such a manner, too, that it would have paid him (and his country, too) financially, to adopt this side of his profession and try to elucidate some abstruse problem of disease, instead of merely endeavouring to apply the knowledge he had acquired practically, with the object only of earning a living.

It is in research especially that other countries lead, and research needs money; until we get Governments and other authorities to realise that there is a much greater and truer economy in *preventing* disease than in merely curing it, so long shall we be forced to lag behind.

*Address presented to the Central Veterinary Society at Camden Town, on 12th January, 1928.

In considering our colleagues, too, one must not forget that "first impressions" and "appearances" count enormously in the eyes, not only of the general public (whose opinion we cannot afford to ignore) but also in the eyes of our brother scientists of the allied professions. What, for example, must any of them think when they come round here, and see the "Royal Veterinary College" of England in such an antiquated, tumbledown condition? One is, of course, ashamed to ask them to come, but some of them rather voluntarily express the wish to come and one is "landed"!

May I read you from one of the more recent public comments which have reached me in consequence of, and subsequent to, a visit here recently: Captain Browne, the Sporting Editor of the *News of the World*, after saying that the comments about to be made concerned a subject of vital interest to the nation at large, stated: "What I have in mind is the existing state of affairs at the Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town. I have no hesitation in saying that, in its present condition and equipment, the famous old college is a national disgrace"—strong words they may be, but not one whit too strong. "Here we find buildings so rotten that some stand propped up and condemned by the L.C.C.; others dark, gloomy, and even if in thorough repair, hopelessly out of date and entirely inadequate. We find, too, a highly-skilled staff, comprising men whose names are household words in their profession, abroad as well as at home, carrying on as best they may in conditions sufficient to damp the ardour of the most enthusiastic." Then, after allusion to the good work done in the Out-patients' Department, for the sick animals of the poor, this writer goes on to say: "but the place which the College fills in the life of the nation is of far higher and wider import. It is under its direction that the veterinary surgeons of to-morrow receive their education and are taught the value of observation and research. Almost day by day the link between the medical and veterinary professions becomes closer and more intimate, and the skilled professors now giving their service at the College are turning out men who, apart from such eminence as they may later on achieve in their own profession, will no doubt contribute in no unimportant measure to the tracking down of obscure diseases affecting man as well as animals." Alluding then to the ravages and economic loss of such animal diseases as foot-and-mouth disease, this observer goes on to say—"It is to such questions of national importance as this that the Royal Veterinary College should be able to turn its attention. But for such subjects as this, adequate financial provision is necessary. As a matter of fact, the Royal Veterinary College itself is in urgent need of funds. It is estimated that to carry out the necessary rebuilding and equipment of this splendid institution the sum of £250,000 is required. Somehow or other the money must be found . . ." and after alluding to the offer of the Treasury to grant pound for pound up to the sum of £35,000, the writer makes an appeal to the public to help towards getting together the sum required.

My personal contention is that in reality we ought never to be put, as a profession, in the humiliating position of having to beg for money (as if it was a charity). *It ought to be allotted to us by the Government as our right, for are we not a national asset?* Think what would happen to the live stock of the country (and live stock are the backbone of the agricultural industry) if members of the veterinary profession went on strike—or if no scientifically-trained veterinary surgeons existed. Epidemics amongst all kinds of farm stock would speedily appear in the country. Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth, such as we get now, would be very small troubles and losses to what this disease would cost the country if it became universal. In the town animals glanders in horses (now stamped out solely by veterinary supervision) and rabies in dogs—two most typical diseases, each contagious to man—would cause havoc far and wide, and such law and order as we have now in regard to all the scheduled animal diseases would give way to chaos. And the beginning of all these things must, perforce, be a scientific veterinary training—and this can only be obtained by a thorough grounding in what is spoken of at a Veterinary College.

Let me now show you, by means of illustrations with the epidiascope, the high opinion other civilised countries have of the veterinary profession, and with what care they cater for and equip the starting point of the veterinary student. I know most countries of Europe, and I have visited America, *and I know of none which treats its veterinary education worse, or in a more haphazard fashion, than Great Britain*—we who pride ourselves on thinking that we are *the* country of the world who gave the lead to others in matters of kindness to animals. Surely kindness to the sick animal is as important as kindness to those who are well—*and yet quackery is so glaringly rampant and unpreventable that one of the largest Animal Societies, the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, openly boasts that it "treated" over* 300,000 *sick animals of the poor in a year, the so-called "treatment" being administered (and diagnosis made, too) by men who are "quacks" and have never even had the rudiments of veterinary scientific training. It is a curious anomaly of the law that such animal societies are allowed by local authorities, and even supported by mayors and titled personages, to make street collections and public appeals for the so-called "treatment," which clearly implies to the deluded public that the veterinary aid to the sick is given by veterinary surgeons.*

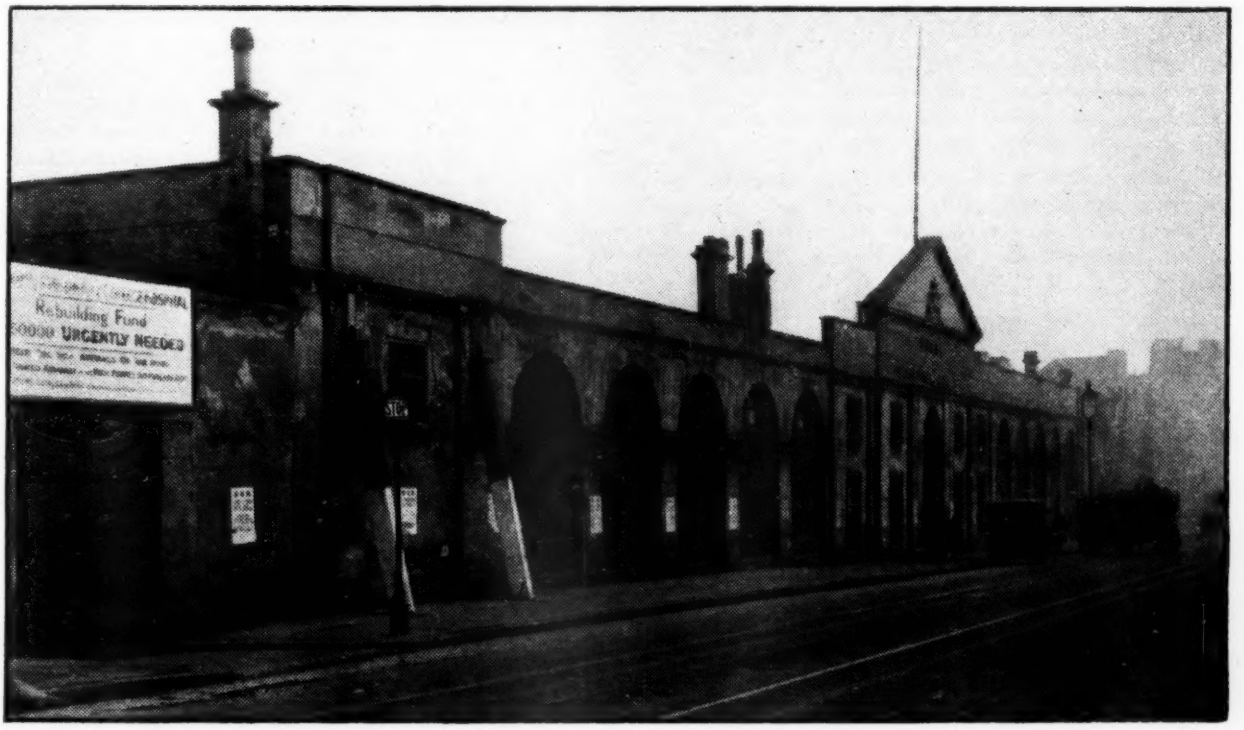
I emphasise all this because I wish to show that Government protection fails to help us as a profession in other respects, just as much as it has failed in the past to help the commencing link of the chain of veterinary service, *viz.*, the Veterinary Colleges.

As I said a few moments ago, every civilised country on the Continent gives large sums annually to support its veterinary school, or schools, and as I have many more illustrations than I am able to show to you to-night on account of time, I shall select those which I think best illustrate my theme.

I will commence with our nearest Continental neighbour, France, and I mention this first because it was in France that the first scientific veterinary school was founded, this being built at Lyons in 1762.

This was followed in 1766 by the magnificent buildings just outside Paris, at Alfort; buildings which, alas, like those of London, are showing signs of age and need reconstructing.

The New Veterinary Medicine Faculty, University of Leipzig.



Royal Veterinary College, London. Façade and Main Entrance.

Institute of Anatomy, Utrecht.

Royal Veterinary College, London.
The Equine Medical Ward and Professors' Offices.

Turin (which city was then Austrian) followed next, in 1769, and the school there now needs to be brought up to-date by new buildings, but it is a Faculty of the University and its equipment for teaching purposes and research is up-to-date.

In 1771, a veterinary school was founded in Gottingen, but about 1830 this was changed into a Veterinary Institute and attached to the University. To-day it is an adjunct of the Agricultural High School, and not a separate veterinary entity.

In 1773, the world-famed school of Copenhagen was built, this at the present time covering a very large area of ground, but being carried on in collaboration with the Agricultural School. In fact, so intimately are they connected that, for one term of years, the Director is a Veterinary Professor, and when he retires from office, his place is taken by the occupier of an Agricultural Chair—this going on alternately.

In 1774 Sweden founded a school at Skara, but this is now only kept as a school of farriery.

Vienna was built in 1777, and Hanover in 1778.

Dresden, which was built as a high school, in 1780, was transferred to the University of Leipzig in 1922, and I will show you a number of these buildings, which are the very latest thing in veterinary structure and equipment.

Berlin came along in 1790.

Milan in 1791 (then Austrian), and London in 1792.

Madrid in 1793.

Bern, in 1805.

St. Petersburg in 1808 (no longer existing).

Naples in 1815, and Zurich in 1819.

In 1819 the Swedish School of Skara was given up and a veterinary school was founded at Stockholm—recently re-modelled and re-built. Stockholm is a splendid school.

In 1821, Holland built a school at Utrecht, and of this I will show you some of the old buildings, and also those sections of the new University School, which have recently been erected. Very fine architecture and with the very latest up-to-date equipment.

In 1825 France built a third school at Toulouse, but this was closed last year, being unnecessary.

It was in the year 1825 that the "Dick" Veterinary College in Edinburgh came into existence, a building which was recently evacuated in favour of the very nice, but rather small, College which was erected a few years ago, and which still awaits sundry details to complete its interior.

In 1826, the Kingdom of Hungary built a very excellent school, well adapted to the wants of such an agricultural and pastoral country; a school well equipped and quite up-to-date. It is from Professors Hutyra and Marek, of this school, that we get that splendidly-written three-volume book printed first in German and now translated also into English and French, which is the standard text-book of veterinary scientific knowledge throughout the whole civilised world—"The Hutyra and Marek Special Pathology and Therapeutics of the Domesticated Animals." It is worth noting, as a tribute to the value set upon veterinary science in Hungary, that this school originally commenced as a Professorship only of the University in 1783.

In 1832, Brussels was founded and the old school was re-built and transferred to its present site at Cureghem about twenty-five years ago. It is interesting to note that during the late war it was made great use of by the Germans as a serum preparation station.

1840 saw the birth of a Polish school at Warsaw, and this has now been re-built and modernised; being a Faculty of the University.

In 1848, Russia built Dorpat, in 1830 Kharkov, 1874 Kazar, and in 1881 Lemberg.

I will now follow on, if you are not too wearied, with pictures from Canada, India, South Africa, and America (North and South).

In conclusion, now that you have seen the Veterinary Colleges of other countries, I will ask you, if you make any discussion, to say, in particular, whether you think that the action taken by North America in banishing altogether its private teaching veterinary schools and permitting only State or University Veterinary Schools to exist, was not right—and whether or not you think we in England should not be better off for our professional start and graduation if we did the same. The day of the private college has gone, and the College of to-day, to be up with the times in research and practical equipment, needs Government aid financially, without, in order to be ideal, being crippled by too much motherly Government control.

Veterinary science nowadays can no more stop in a water-tight compartment than any other science, and the sooner we recognise this and are recognised by others as a necessary composite part of the whole, the sooner we shall gain that place in the sun for which we are always calling.

Discussion.

The President (Captain W. K. Townson): On behalf of this Society, I wish to thank Principal Hobday very much, first of all for inviting us to hold our meeting at the College this evening and, secondly, and what is more important, for putting before us such an interesting and instructive address. (Applause.) I am sure we all owe him a deep debt of gratitude for the effort he has put forward, and not only in connection with this address, but for the enthusiasm he has shown on behalf of our College in his efforts to raise funds for its rebuilding. (Hear, hear.) I am afraid the attendance here to-night is somewhat affected by a late meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, but we are pleased to welcome the students whom we have here but we hope will not be here when the rebuilding of this College is an accomplished fact. (Laughter.) There is one thing that struck me much in seeing the very interesting pictures which we have been shown this evening, and that is that we have a patriotic duty to perform; we all want to think that Great Britain is taking a leading part in everything, and we want it to be in the forefront as regards veterinary colleges. We must make up our minds to build a Veterinary College here which is not only as good as any of those we have seen to-night, but better. (Applause.)

It is gratifying to know that the great Horse Societies and Agricultural Societies have given us a great deal of support, and we look for support from private individuals, as lovers of animals. I want to call your attention to the "S.O.S." in the *Veterinary Record*: I think that that appeal is most pathetic. (Laughter.)

I have already expressed my feelings as regards the appalling condition of the Royal Veterinary College and the lack of equipment, to this Society at a previous meeting, so I do not propose to say anything more about that, but I want again to thank Principal Hobday for his very interesting address, and I hope that the money may be forthcoming so that we may have a College second to none in the world. (Applause.)

Major-General Sir JOHN MOORE: I should like, in your name, to thank Principal Hobday very much for his most illuminating address which we have received this evening on the subject of veterinary schools. The conclusion to which I have come—and I am sure it is uppermost in your minds also—is that the only thing to be done is to abolish private schools in Great Britain. Private schools appear to me to be things of the past, and when we see such magnificent institutions as we have witnessed on the epidiascope of the schools they have on the Continent, we, as a country, can only feel very ashamed of the institutions we possess. The time certainly has come when we should press for better recognition than we have at present. (Hear, hear.)

I was rather interested in the pictures of the Edinburgh school, because that school does show a certain amount of improvement; but when we come to the College, here in London, the largest city in the world, and the greatest city in the Empire, we can only say that from a building point of view it is no school at all, and certainly not an institution that we can invite our Continental colleagues to come and see as an example.

We have in front of us the appeal for rebuilding, which is going tolerably well, though perhaps not as well as it should do, and the question arises how can we improve it. The only way we can do that, so long as it remains a private appeal, is for all of us to put our shoulders to the wheel and endeavour to influence public opinion and the opinion of our friends to try and get the money together, always bearing in mind that whatever money is subscribed privately the Government will contribute £ for £. As I say, a certain amount of money has been collected, and there is no reason why we should not go on spending that money in improving the rather sad lot of the College, not only as regards the emoluments of the teaching staff, but as regards the comfort of the students. I am very glad to see that a Common Room has now been established in the College, because the value of the training given is not unassociated with the material comfort of the students. Certainly the lecture rooms also want considerable improvement. It is, for instance, an astonishing thing that in such a College as this there should have been only one place at which a student could find hot water to wash his hands, no matter in what part of the building he may have been doing a dirty job, and that even after performing dissections there was no hot water wherewith he could cleanse himself.

I think we should do everything in our power individually and collectively as a profession, through our friends and our clients, to help along the appeal which is now before the public. Again, Principal Hobday, I must thank you very much for your most excellent lecture. I have also to express to you, from the President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, his deep regret at his inability to be with us this evening. (Applause.)

Professor JAMES MACQUEEN (Dean of the London College), in response to the President's invitation, said: I have no desire to say anything, and anything I might say might not be very agreeable. (Laughter.) I quite agree with Principal Hobday that our place is in a deplorable condition and that it requires rebuilding, and I also agree with Sir John Moore that private Schools should be abolished. But that should be no bar to the collection of money, and that is the main object of this demonstration. (Laughter.) It must be an eye-opener to those who have never seen any other veterinary college building than this one.

Notwithstanding its faults, some good work has been done in the Royal Veterinary College, and not only in the College in London, but in those in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and at a later day in Liverpool. It is not the building that makes the profession; it is the worker inside it, and although I agree with Sir John Moore that comforts are an advantage to students, especially a supply of hot water—(laughter)—comforts are not an indispensable thing in the cause of working for the profession. I hope that this meeting to-night will promote a considerable increase of donations to the Re-building Fund. (Applause.)

Mr. W. PERRYMAN: I would like to emphasise the remarks made by Sir John Moore and Professor Macqueen. The one thing this meeting seems to have created in me is a greater desire to do anything I can to uphold the College, and a feeling of unrest and disgust that in England, especially in London, we should have such a derelict institution as we have. I am sure we all feel that we ought really to come up to the Continental standard, but, if we cannot, certainly greatly to improve the College we have at the present time.

But I do not think that we are behind our Continental *confrères* in the promotion of veterinary science. Wherever a veterinary surgeon is known as having been a London or an English student he holds his own: nevertheless, we feel that everything possible should be done to improve the College we have in London and I do sincerely hope that the efforts now being made will materially increase the subscriptions to the fund for its re-building, and that in the course of a few months we shall see a very big subscription list. (Applause.)

Mr. H. L. ROBERTS: As an old student, and one who studied here for a time under the present Principal, and one who has the interests of the old College at heart, I have felt for some time past that all old students should do something towards re-building it. I sincerely hope that this meeting of the "Central" will act as a stimulus to further effort on the part of everybody in the profession or friendly disposed towards it, in order that they may both double their subscriptions and endeavour to secure new ones. But what we, as some of the early donors, feel is that we do not know how much has been subscribed. We are told that Government support is to be forthcoming on a £ for £ basis and we feel we should like to see more frequent announcements in our official organ, the *Veterinary Record*, as to the amount that has been collected. It might encourage some new donors to come forward with their cheques, especially if we are doing well!

As you know, I have strong views on private enterprise: I was struck with the tenor of the various speeches—that the day for that sort of thing had gone by and that we ought to have a State Veterinary College. It was also said that a veterinary college, especially in view of the passing of the horse, ought to be situated in a rural district. For some time I have thought, in order that the pathology, and I might say the bacteriology, of the farm animals might be more intimately studied, it would be a good thing if we might move this College to a centre like Cambridge, where there would be opportunities for studying nutrition and hygiene in the byre and sheep-pen under natural conditions. I hope the money will be forthcoming quickly so that we, as a profession, can go to the Government of the day and say that we want the full amount they have promised us on a £ for £ basis. I should like to add my quota of appreciation and thanks to Principal Hobday for his very illuminating address and for the wonderful illustrations he had shown us. (Applause.)

Professor G. H. WOOLDRIDGE: I rise simply because you have called upon me, Mr. President, for you have already had expressions of opinion from other members of the teaching staff of this institution.

I can only emphasise the necessity for material and rapid contributions to the Re-building Fund. As has been noted this evening, the work of an institution of this kind does not depend entirely upon the shell in which it is carried out. (Hear, hear.) There are some of us who think that those elaborate places we have seen are by no means an unmixed blessing and that it is far better that the student should conduct his studies under circumstances which will be in some degree in conformity with the conditions prevailing when he gets into practice.

I have every sympathy with the remarks of those who have stressed the necessity, amongst other things, for increased comfort of the students. I also hope I may be alive to see applied the suggested pension scheme for old teachers. (Laughter.) It is striking a personal note, I know, but I think it is as necessary as all the rest. (Hear, hear.)

Colonel W. A. PALLIN: I wish to endorse the remarks which have been made by our President and Sir John Moore in thanking Principal Hobday for his most interesting and excellent lecture and for producing those photographs of the various colleges.

I agree with other speakers that it is a standing disgrace that in even some of the small States they get such wonderful buildings and colleges and yet when we come to look at our London College it is simply appalling. I have not seen the London College for some twenty-five years and naturally I could not believe my eyes. It is a standing disgrace to the British Empire. (Hear, hear.) I think the wonderful pictures shown us might be shown throughout Great Britain as propaganda; surely nothing would convince the public more. They are an object lesson. (Applause.)

Profe sor S. H. GAIGER, pressed to speak by the President, said: I am a visitor here and this is only the second time I have been privileged to attend a meeting of this Society. I have listened with very great interest to Principal Hobday's remarks and watched his slides with equal interest, and I could not help hoping that the next place in which he give.. this demonstration might be in the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture. (Laughter.) I think it would be an excellent thing if one could give such a lantern demonstration to the appropriate Government Department: it would stimulate the Government to provide more than £35,000, which is to be given, for £70,000 does not go very far in these days. We have seen all kinds of colleges, from the ramshackle buildings here to the wonderful buildings at Leipzig, and I think that a thought we might take away with us is one that has already been suggested here this evening, that it is not altogether buildings that count. The Leipzig buildings seem to be altogether extravagant for housing 130 students.

While one would not advocate a continuance of the premises here in the state in which they exist now, one may express the hope that in rebuilding this or any other college in this country, there would be kept in mind not size, but the maximum of usefulness for the purpose for which they are required.

I would express surprise that anyone should advocate that the veterinary schools in this country should be Government institutions; much rather would I have heard it advocated that they should be part of our universities. Our position is largely due to ignorance of ourselves on the part of other professions. Unless we can take our place alongside these and show that our students are studying along the same lines I do not think we are going to make very much progress away from the isolated position in which we stand at the present time.

I have been on the staff of a Government school—in Lahore—and from what I have seen of Government schools I certainly would not advocate the Government being in control of the veterinary colleges in this country.

Captain DUNLOP MARTIN: I should like to emphasise the heartiness of our thanks to Principal Hobday for the immense amount of trouble I know he must have taken to obtain all these splendid views and to have them here for our instruction to-night.

I wish to say how heartily I agree with what Professor Gaiger has said. I think that the greatest efforts should be put forward to make our veterinary schools part and parcel of the universities, to which they should be affiliated. In my view, there is no factor which would do the profession more good than to concentrate upon that step.

Mr. F. W. WILLETT: I also desire to thank Principal Hobday for the splendid effort he has put forward to enlighten the profession on this matter. I have been with him to see several of the colleges he has shown on the screen this evening, but I little thought then that he would so soon have his present objective in hand. It was an education to see these splendid buildings, but it did occur to me that in some cases they were very magnificent and the upkeep too expensive for the number of students there. We may not want such palatial buildings as these, but we certainly do want some much more worthy of the interests involved in a country like ours.

Mr. HENRY GRAY: I congratulate Principal Hobday on giving us such a good illustrated lecture on the veterinary colleges of the world as to make us thoroughly ashamed of our own. But do not we deserve the position we are in? Nobody knows so much about the veterinary profession as we, and if we have not enlightened the public as to our requirements that is our own fault.

Some years ago I criticised this College most severely and I went to the trouble of sending the Governors my criticisms, but nobody seemed to take any notice. (Laughter.)

If this re-building fund appeal was properly organised and put before the masses of the people of this country, who are very ready to be approached by the veterinary profession, I am sure we should get all we want.

Some seem to think that we should lose our independence by joining up with the universities: I believe in keeping our independence, but there is nothing to stop us from taking university degrees, in addition to our own, if we wish to do so. This College was primarily intended for the instruction of students, but I think, in addition to that intention, it should be made a large research institution. When I was down at Weybridge, at the Ministry's laboratory, I thought: What a waste of great opportunities!—Half hidden in a wilderness! (Laughter.) If that institution could be brought up here and affiliated to this College, as the similar institution of the Belgian Ministry of Agriculture is to the Brussels Veterinary College, it would go a long way to show agriculturists that this College was much more valuable than they now think it is. I have always taken a great interest in this College, because my family has been connected with it for over one hundred years. More attention should be paid, I think, to the training of the present-day student to deal with the ailments of the smaller animals, as these animals, with the exception of the luxury species, as dogs and cats, are of great national importance. The poultry industry in this country is estimated at forty millions, and how many veterinary surgeons are there take any interest in the diseases of poultry? It is double the value of the wheat industry, and therefore I think it is a branch of veterinary medicine for which graduates should be trained. The rabbit-breeding industry is another big one: it is more profitable to raise wool from rabbits than it is from sheep, and the pelts on some of the good pelage varieties fetch good prices. People talk about the country being over-populated; I do not think so. The trouble is that it is not used to its fullest extent, by the gross neglect of agriculture and the depopulation of the country districts. I do hope that, to encourage such use, when this College is re-built it will devote more attention to the smaller animals which give a great deal of work to many people who would otherwise lead idle lives or be forced into large towns which are already over-populated to the detriment of the country in general.

THE REPLY.

THE PROGRESS OF THE FUND.

PRINCIPAL HOBDAY, in the course of his reply, said: It is quite obvious that everybody is at least in agreement about this—that the College should be re-built. The thing, of course, that is concerning some of us up here is how to get hold of the money. £250,000 is not much: surely we have in Great Britain, out of a population of 48 millions, 250,000 sporting people who would give us £1 apiece, if only we could find them. And we have reduced that number whom we have to find to 150,000. (Applause.) The Government have started with £35,000; several people have given us £1,000 each, and the help that was given to us by the Crystal Palace Championship Dog Show added £1,400 to our fund. (Applause.) The Kennel Club gave 250 guineas and a number of city companies gave sums of £100 and of 50 guineas. Altogether, the fund is progressing

satisfactorily, and the suggestion of publishing the amounts in the papers will be acted upon regularly in the future.

As for the epidiascope, which has rendered us such service this evening, I received the account rendered for the fifth time this morning. (Loud laughter.) You may take that as a hint. (Renewed laughter.) Without very much trouble I have induced several ladies to give £100 to found and endow a kennel in memory of some favourite dog. £1,000 will, I might remind you—(laughter)—endow a horse box in the name of a favourite steed. We shall get the money all right—(hear, hear)—and we are all pulling together very well. You would be quite pleased if you saw the returns from the collecting cards that have come in during the past six weeks and in nearly every case request has been made for a fresh card.

In regard to the question of affliation to a university, I think that both Professor Gaiger and Captain Dunlop Martin know well that I am very strongly in favour of that. I was pleased to hear several speakers say that we do not want Government control, and I think my last paragraph intimated that although we should like Government support, we do not want any grandmotherly control such as a Government is apt to give to those who are in its power.

As Professor Wooldridge has said, it is not the beautiful outside shell that tells, but what is going on inside, but it is necessary to have a shell through the roof of which water does not drip. (Laughter.)

I think myself that it would not be good for us to be isolated; it is good for us to be near the other sciences, and we shall have our physiology, our chemistry and our branches of science where we can be seen and near others which are analogous to us. If we did move to some university town it might not be a disadvantage, but in stopping in London there are many good points. Certainly the animals of the farm cannot be studied here as well as they could be under natural conditions. Nothing in the whole of my wanderings has struck me more than the beautiful practical buildings that have been erected outside Edinburgh, at Moredun. The laboratories are beautifully equipped and in the field of 100 acres there were over 100 sheep. In connection with this College, then, it must be considered whether the study of animals in their natural habitat can be arranged.

I invite you all, at the conclusion of these proceedings, to have a look round the College. There is just sufficient electric light about the place to enable you to see what we have done up to now in the way of protecting ourselves and impressing our visitors with the direness of our need. (Laughter and applause.)

Demand for Heavy Horses.

"People who study traffic have noted the still steady increase of the number of heavy draught horses on the roads," says the *Daily Mail*. "It was particularly marked during the recent wintry spell, and inquiries at the Shire Horse Society's offices showed that there are many signs of a definite revival.

Mr. A. B. Charlton, the Shire Horse Society's secretary, expressed the view that the good draught horse is being more widely recognised as the most economical means of transport in circumscribed areas.

Among the important signs of a revival (he said) are the recent heavy demand for stallions, which have been on a scale unknown two or three years ago; the fact that geldings are making anything from 80 gs. to 100 gs., 80gs. being a common price; and the high figures obtained for foals. At the principal show in October two foals made 200 gs. each, and another was sold privately for about double that price.

Major W. Ascott, M.R.C.V.S., Hon. Secretary of Bideford Horse Show, speaking at the Society's annual meeting, said signs were not wanting that the horse was by no means finished with. The heavy horse was getting very scarce, which would make them dear. Farmers had told him they did not know where to turn to get working horses, and they must breed more because the tractor was not adapted to their small fields in North Devon.

The Palatability of Certain Seeds to Chicks.*

By H. F. Newbigin,
Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture; and
R. G. Linton, M.R.C.V.S.,
Dept. of Hygiene, Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

It is a commonly expressed opinion concerning commercial chicken grain mixtures that they sometimes contain seeds of doubtful nutritive value to chickens, and that many of the seeds, owing to their unpalatable nature, are not eaten and thus wasted. Furthermore, it has been suggested from time to time that some of the seeds, particularly millet and canary seeds, are unsuitable for young chickens owing to the hardness of their seed-coats. One of us had previously made an examination of commercial chicken grain mixtures,[1] and concluded that, as a rule, sellers of these mixtures do not compound them with any definite method. Owing to the great variety of seeds used in the mixtures it was thought that an experiment to test their palatability would not be without interest, and the result of the test might possibly help to guide chicken feeders and manufacturers of chicken foods in the selection of grains most suitable for the purpose of rearing chickens. The following eleven foods were chosen for the experiment: wheat, maize, lentils, peas, pinhead oatmeal (groats), millet (*Panicum milisceum*), canary seeds, dari, hemp, linseed and rice.

In June, 1926, a preliminary experiment was made with 30 Ancona and Brown Leghorn chicks. The eleven foods were mixed in equal proportions and placed in a box to which the chicks had access all day, thus enabling them to make their own selection of food from the eleven different grains.

At the end of each day the residue was collected from the box and subsequently examined in the laboratory, where it was weighed, and then, after a thorough mixing, the individual seeds were separated from a representative portion. Thus it was possible to calculate the percentage of each kind of grain consumed by the chicks. This preliminary trial clearly indicated that young chicks, even when only a few days old, show some preference for certain seeds, while others are of secondary choice. During this trial the chicks consumed millet, rice, canary seed and dari in preference to the other grains; hemp and linseed were very unpopular, in fact 80 per cent. of the residue was composed of these two grains. Maize, peas and lentils were also neglected, but not to such an extent as the hemp and linseed. This preliminary trial was conducted for 24 days, the chickens being first given the grain when they were 48 hours old.

As this preliminary trial indicated that chicks do prefer some of the seeds included in the grain mixtures to others, it was decided to repeat the experiment under more exacting conditions. Thirty-six Wyandotte chicks were hatched on December 15th and placed in a brooder house with a Hover. They were weighed on hatching and after-

*(Reprinted from *The Scottish Journal of Agriculture*, Vol. X., No. 4, October, 1927, by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.)

[1] "The Composition of Poultry Mixed Grains." R. G. Linton, *The Scottish Journal of Agriculture*, Vol. III, No. 4, October, 1925.

wards every five days. In addition to the seed mixture the chicks were supplied with oyster shell grit, green stuff and milk. The milk was gradually discontinued up to January 14th, after which date water only was given. There was one death due to an accident during the last week of the experiment. The chickens remained in good health during the 7½ weeks the experiment lasted, except that at the sixth week some of the birds showed signs of "leg weakness," and were therefore put on to small quantities of cod-liver oil mixed with bran. All the birds recovered except three, which never regained the full use of their legs, though they ate and throve well. For winter-hatched birds their growth could be regarded as normal and their feathering was good. At the close of the experiment the birds were all put on dry and wet mash. The cockerels were marketed at the age of 14 weeks, when they weighed from 3½ to 4 lbs. Two of the pullets laid their first eggs when exactly five months old.

This second experiment was conducted as follows. A definite quantity of each of the eleven foods was weighed out separately each day in order to secure accuracy, then mixed together and placed in a large box. To avoid loss of seeds the chickens were lifted into this box every two hours for about ten minutes at a time. After the first few days the birds learnt to jump in and out of the box by themselves. As the size of the chicks and therefore their appetites increased, the quantity of food put into the box was also increased with the intention that there should always be a plentiful supply of each ingredient of the mixture. At the beginning of the trial when the chicks were only two days old, 10 grammes of each food, or 110 grammes in all, were given; but at the end of the trial this had been increased to 130 grammes of each food, or 1,430 grammes of the total mixture. The amount of residue left for examination ranged from 44 grammes on the first day up to 366 grammes on the last day. But notwithstanding the large quantity of food left over it was found, when examination of the residues was subsequently made, that on many days all the seeds of some varieties of grain had been consumed. Therefore it seems certain that had the total bulk been greater, the consumption of the unfavoured grains would have been still less.

In this experiment the actual weight of each food that was consumed per day per chick (the average of 36 chicks) was determined, and the percentage eaten of that given in the mixture calculated from day to day. During the first day the chicks did not show any marked partiality or distaste for particular foods, except that they consumed all the dari and only 20 per cent. of the linseed, and it is interesting to note that the average consumption of linseed for the whole period, 46 days, was practically the same as that of the first day, namely, 24 per cent. The partiality or the reverse for certain seeds remained fairly constant, and the result of the trial confirms the finding of the preliminary test, namely, that chicks do show a marked preference for some foods over others. It also confirms the results of the first experiments (with one notable exception, namely, hemp) in respect of the foods selected and the foods neglected The following table shows the *percentage eaten of that given* for each food, and is the average for the 46 days.

TABLE 1.

Amount of each food eaten by the chicks per 100 grammes of that given.

Food.	*Per cent. eaten.*
Millet	97
Canary seed	95·7
Dari	88
Hemp	86·6
Rice	79
Groats	76
Wheat	63·3
Lentils	56·7
Maize	51·2
Peas	49·4
Linseed	24·4

The extent to which some foods were chosen in preference to others is more clearly seen in Fig I. where the selective capacity of the chicks is shown in graphic form.

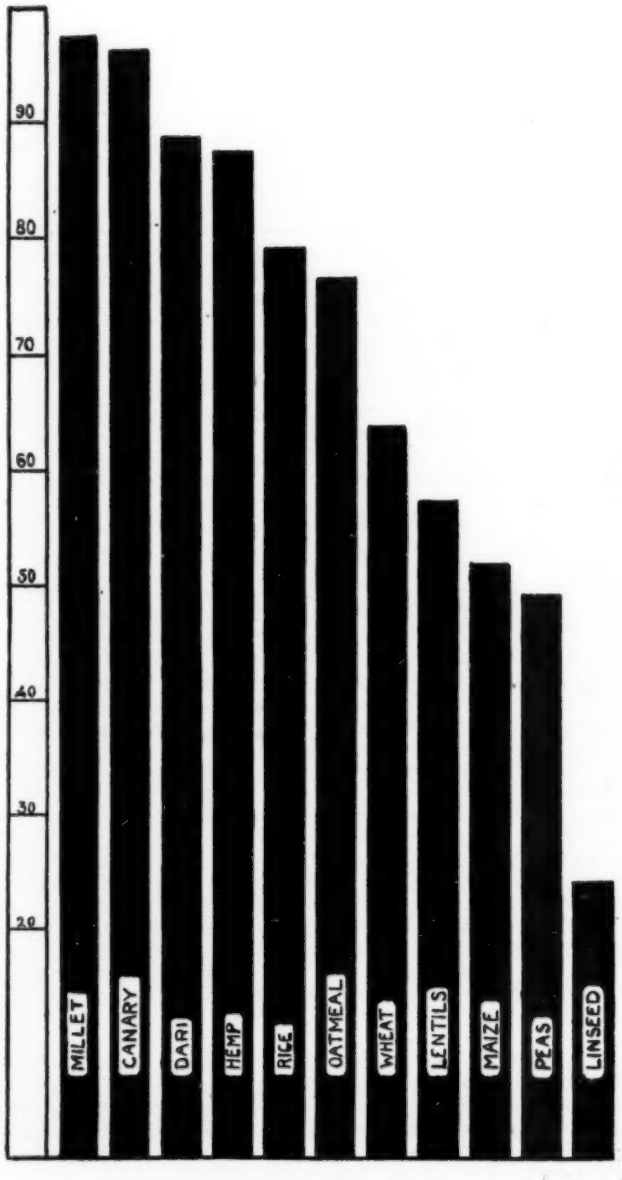


FIG. I.

Percentage of each food offered eaten by the chicks.

That young chicks show a marked preference for some foods to others is certain ; and some of the factors that may possibly influence them in making their selection may here be considered.

Colour.—Of the eleven foods, three possess striking and distinctive colours, namely, split red lentils, kibbled yellow maize and split green peas. That these bright and conspicuous colours do not make the grains more attractive to chicks is clearly shown by the fact that in each of the two trials the brightly-coloured foods were the least popular. Linseed, of a definite brown colour, and a very distinctive appearance owing to its size and shape, was the least favoured of any of the foods in the mixture. Colour, therefore, has clearly no influence upon selection, unless it be that the bright colours, being suggestive of toxic seeds, are actually repellent.

Size of Grain.—This does not appear to influence the chicks in any way. The millet, rice and groats used in the test were approximately of the same size, and were the smallest particles of food ; canary seed, though much bigger is almost as much favoured as millet ; while dari, the largest seed in the mixture (about the same size as hemp), is more fancied by the chicks than rice, groats or other grains that are much smaller when kibbled, as they were in this mixture.

Shiny Appearance.—Millet, canary seed and linseed were the only foods in the mixture that had bright and shiny seed-coats, that of linseed being less bright than that of the other two. Millet and canary are the two most favoured foods, but dari and hemp are almost as popular ; as these two latter seeds have a dull drab appearance, the shininess or dullness of the seed-coat obviously does not influence selection.

The Chemical Composition.—A study of the following table of analyses of the foods (Table II) will reveal that the chemical composition of the various grains has no bearing on their palatability. The fibre content might be thought to have an influence in selection, but foods are picked out by the chicks irrespective of its percentage. Foods rich in protein as well as those containing relatively little were selected with equal freedom. It is clear, from both trials, that linseed is discarded by chicks. It is well known that no other animal can digest this grain unless it is previously softened by boiling or steeping in water, or unless it is crushed, and that if consumed in large quantity the oil is nauseating. It may therefore be that the chicks declined to eat it for either or both of these reasons, and it is interesting to note that the reluctance on the part of the chicks to eat linseed was consistent throughout the whole period of both trials and was not a distaste acquired as the chicks grew older.

TABLE II.

Composition of Foods used in Experiment.

(The foods are placed in order as selected by the chicks.)

Food.	Moisture	Crude Protein.	Fat.	Carbohydrate.	Fibre.	Ash.
Whole Millet	14·16	9·19	3·86	55·50	14·13	3·16
,, Canary Seed ...	11·50	14·44	6·30	58·70	4·33	4·75
,, Dari	13·83	8·31	4·33	70·30	0·83	2·40
,, Hemp	10·00	25·25	24·36	20·20	15·10	5·00
Broken Rice ...	13·33	6·12	0·86	79·09	*Nil.*	0·60
Groats	10·73	29·31	7·53	49·04	1·56	1·83
Bruised Wheat ...	15·70	12·25	1·33	66·59	1·90	2·23
Kibbled Lentils ...	13·73	23·19	1·23	59 85	*Nil.*	2 00
,, Maize ...	14·33	8·75	1·13	73·33	0·76	0·70
,, Peas... ...	15·16	20·12	1·96	57·63	2·63	2·50
Whole Linseed ...	7·30	16·19	32·53	35·29	4·76	3·93

Of the eleven foods, hemp is the only one that gives contradictory results in the two trials, all the others foods showing approximately the same order of preference. In the first trial hemp and linseed were equally distasteful, but in the second trial we find that the chicks actually consumed 86·6 per cent. of the hemp that was given them, and in order of popularity hemp was practically equal to the grain which took third place, namely, dari. Considering that the chicks were kept under identical conditions during both trials, except that during the second trial the weather was colder, being in the middle of December as compared with June and July for the first trial, it is difficult to suggest why one set of chicks should decline to eat hemp and another to consume over 86 per cent. of what is offered to them. It may be that during the colder weather of winter the chicks instinctively selected foods rich in oil. With the exception of linseed (declined because of its unpalatability), hemp, containing 24 per cent. of oil, is the richest in oil of all the foods of the mixture, and this may be the reason why, in these experiments, it was eaten during the winter and declined during the hot summer months. Further feeding trials are obviously needed in this connection.

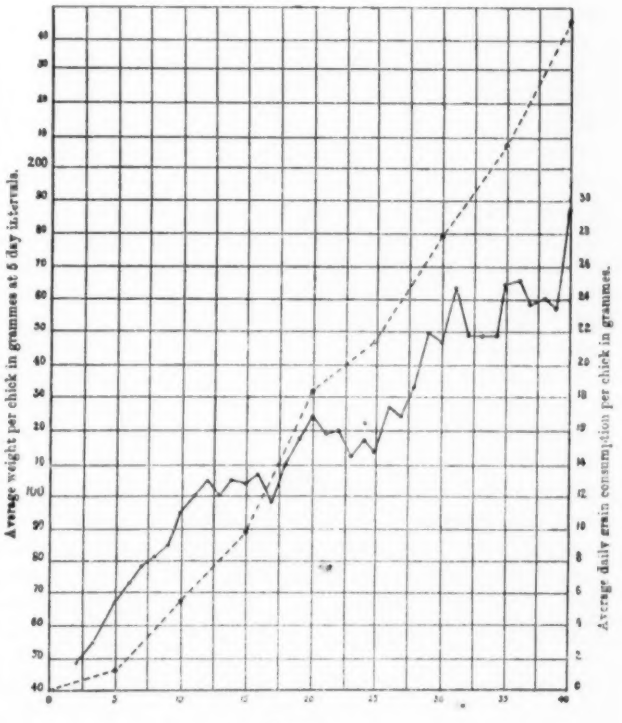


Fig. II.

Chart showing daily grain consumption (unbroken line) and live-weight increase (broken line) per chick.

One fact stands out clearly in this experiment, and this is that the first four foods selected by the chicks, namely, millet, canary seed, dari and hemp, are the only grains (with the exception of linseed) offered to the chicks in their natural state, i.e., neither decorticated nor kibbled. It may therefore be that the deciding factor in the natural selection of foods by young chicks is the condition in which they are offered, " natural " foods being selected in preference to " treated " foods.

As chicks apparently prefer whole seeds to decorticated, kibbled or crushed grains, it seems advisable, so far as may be possible, to conform to their tastes, particularly as whole grains are presumably richer in vitamin B. Owing to the fact that linseed, kibbled peas, lentils and maize are clearly unpalatable to young chicks, it is suggested that these foods might with advantage be excluded from chicken grain mixtures.

The chart (Fig. II) shows the average daily grain consumption per chick and the average live weight increase per chick.

We are indebted to Professor R. G. Thin, D.Sc., F.I.C., for the analyses of the foods used in the experiment.

Humanitarianism in East London in 1927.

By J. W. Rainey, C.B.E., M.R.C.V.S., London.

In that important artery of London's industrial life, the Commercial Road, two great competing humanitarian organisations—the R.S.P.C.A. and the P.D.S.A.—have been working cheek-by-jowl with great energy during the past year and the results of their separate activities may now be roughly compared. The work of the P.D.S.A. has been centred upon their dispensary at 542 Commercial Road. Here, increasing numbers of small animals have been dealt with at the daily clinic, a good many have been admitted as boarders, and a vast host have been destroyed.

The work of the R.S.P.C.A. has been of quite another sort. Many months ago, in response to a notice which appeared in the *Veterinary Record*, to the effect that it was proposed to form a voluntary-aid branch of the R.S.P.C.A., I was one of those veterinary practitioners who offered to help, free of charge. Other practitioners in my neighbourhood may have been utilised more fully, but I have had exactly one R.S.P.C.A. case brought to me.

So far as I know, this solitary case represents the whole of the voluntary-aid work done at the instance of the R.S.P.C.A. in the greater part of East London.

But the R.S.P.C.A. have not been idle. I am credibly informed that their representative in the Commercial Road secured no fewer than 100 convictions during 1927 in prosecutions for alleged cruelty to horses, thus establishing a record for this district at a time when it is becoming really difficult to discover any lame horses on the streets. Now, prosecutions for cruelty to horses are occasionally very necessary, but why this remarkable specialisation on a relatively negligible matter in so vast a field of alleged suffering? One must conclude either that the P.D.S.A. is entirely superfluous or that the R.S.P.C.A. is woefully neglecting most of its humanitarian opportunities.

The facts are that the work of the R.S.P.C.A. in industrial London is confined almost entirely to these prosecutions, and that the P.D.S.A. has sprung phœnix-like from the ashes of a somewhat burnt-out R.S.P.C.A. fire. It may seem, to the uninformed, amazing that, with the greatly-reduced horse transport on London streets, and the vastly increased canine and feline numbers, the R.S.P.C.A. subordinate personnel in London should still confine their activities almost solely to searching anxiously for the lost legion of lame horses while their rivals, the P.D.S.A., with apt opportunism, are so easily reaping the eleemosynary harvest. Personally, I am rather sorry it should be so, because I have retained a strong feeling of war-time comradeship for the R.S.P.C.A., and it is to me a pathetic reflection that this Society should seem, so far as London is concerned, to be passing away with the horse and the hansom cab. One has a vision, as of an Egyptian frieze, wherein the last horse is seen pursuing his melancholy journey to the graveyard followed by an attenuated procession of R.S.P.C.A. inspectors.

One would like to be able to make some suggestions which might help the R.S.P.C.A. to develop their voluntary-aid scheme, but it is very difficult. To begin with, they would have to change some of their existing inspectors, among whom one finds here and there a man whose mentality is so saturated with the police-court complex that he can find no interest whatever in anything that is not likely to lead to a conviction of someone or other. These men could easily be spared, because the numbers of horses on the London streets are so greatly reduced that the occasional visit of an inspector to certain points in crowded thoroughfares and steep gradients would amply suffice to maintain the creditably high London standard. The abolition of the fees paid for veterinary evidence, so as to bring their work into line with other voluntary aid, might help to some extent, by removing any possible financial interest from police-court proceedings. The provision of first-aid depôts seems impracticable, because the P.D.S.A. have got so far ahead in this respect. The best solution of all would be the amalgamation, in a common crusade, of all the competing humanitarian organisations, not excepting the veterinary profession, and I believe that in comparison with this ideal no other plan is worth the serious consideration of any honest and intelligent person.

Veterinary Science in India.

Major Kenelm Hewlett, Principal of the Bombay Veterinary College, presiding over the fifth session of the All-India Veterinary Conference, held at the Bombay College at the end of December, said in the course of his address from the Chair that during the past few years a great many changes had taken place in veterinary work. These changes had affected all aspects of their work and had, in fact, almost revolutionised it. Animal force had been replaced by machinery and in consequence veterinary practitioners in cities had been hard hit and found it difficult to make both ends meet by purely professional work. These changes, however, were happily counterbalanced to a great extent by the increase of interest that was being evinced in the care and treatment of cattle and their diseases and especially contagious diseases. There could be no doubt that the future of the veterinary profession in India lay in this direction. The cattle of India were among her greatest assets, for on cattle depended her agriculture. The changes in the last 25 years had been great, too, on the education side. In 1902 there were four veterinary colleges in India, *viz.*, Bombay and Bengal, in which the medium of instruction was in the English tongue, and Lahore and Ajmere, in which instruction was in the vernacular. The Ajmere college had been closed and a college at Madras opened, and other colleges were under construction at Rangoon and Patna. The medium of instruction was now English in all the colleges.

Continuing, the speaker said: "Although there has been progress in many fields of veterinary work in India during the last quarter of a century, the expansion of the veterinary department has not been as rapid as we should

have liked it to be, and India still lags far behind other countries in this respect." A further expansion of veterinary activity in India was urgently required. A vast field awaited the research worker into animal disease, for up to now but little had been done. Research was, in the speaker's opinion, one of the chief needs of India and, things being as they were, the only possible agency for carrying it out was the Government of India.

Veterinary education in India required to be reformed and adapted to the changed conditions, the most urgent need being the standardisation of the various college courses. The lack of a central authority for co-ordinating measures for dealing with contagious diseases and for tendering advice to the Government of India on veterinary matters affecting the whole of India had been found to be detrimental to the progress of veterinary science in India.

In conclusion, the speaker said: "For guidance in these future developments we look forward to the report of the Royal Commission on Agricultura in India now sitting. We feel that our profession has a great work to do and that if given the opportunity we can be of immense service to India. In the past we have been subjugated to other professions and callings and our field of utility has been restricted by the lack of the support which we feel to be our due. In a vast country like India, depending almost wholly on its agriculture, and its agriculture depending entirely on the working bullock, it is strange to find apathy with regard to that science which alone can keep the live stock of the country free from the scourge of disease. But such is the case. We must endeavour to create public opinion. It is for you as members of the veterinary profession to keep before the public the vital necessity of our profession and this you can do as you move about your districts and among your clients by proving by your skill and your advice the great value of the profession to which you have the honour to belong."

THE PARKE, DAVIS "VETERINARY MATERIA MEDICA."

No department of veterinary science is less static than that which concerns the preparation of biological products, nor is there any therapeutic field of greater interest to the up-to-date veterinarian. It is essential, therefore, both for the benefit of veterinary science itself and its devotees that all the recent information available should be placed ready to the hand of the clinician. So long ago (as the biological scientist reckons time) as 1921, Messrs. Parke, Davis and Co. issued the fifth edition of their *Veterinary Materia Medica*, and it has been out of print too long. We, and the members of the profession (who have also received this publication), welcome the recently-issued revised edition of a work which has always been popular with the veterinarian as a handy compendium of the uses of reliable modern therapeutic agents.

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Re-assessment of Annual Grants to Institutions providing Higher Agricultural(including Veterinary)Education in England and Wales. Report of the Departmental Committee. (24-0106-00-00)	1 6	1 7
Journal No. II., February, 1928 ...	0 6	0 6
STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1928:—		
7.—Animal. Diseases of Animals. The Importation of Carcases (Prohibition) (Amendment) Order of 1928, dated January 3rd, 1928	0 1	0 1½

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

At this month's meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, it was reported that the Veterinary Committee had received a letter dated January 3, from the Ministry of Agriculture, calling attention to the serious delay which had occurred in reporting suspected cases of foot-and-mouth disease. In no less than thirteen cases out of a total of seventy-six outbreaks confirmed since the present series of outbreaks commenced—that was in 17 per cent.—there had been delay on the part of the owner in reporting suspected disease.

In presenting the report of the Veterinary Committee, Sir Merrik Burrell moved:

That the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England fully agrees with the letter of the Ministry of Agriculture of Jan 3, and desires to call the attention of all the members of the Society to the extreme importance of immediate notification on the least suspicion of the existence of the disease, and is prepared to support the Ministry in any further steps it may deem wise to take to put an end to the concealment, which is causing such widespread loss.

It seemed almost incredible, said Sir Merrik, that such a resolution should be necessary. He thought that perhaps some farmers had a kind of idea that, until they were quite sure that they had the disease on their farms, there was no necessity for them to report the matter. That was not so. Their responsibility was to call in a veterinary surgeon, immediately on the very slightest suspicion.

Lord Hastings seconded the motion, which was carried.

. . . . . .

The Ministry of Agriculture announced on Saturday evening that the existence of foot-and-mouth disease was confirmed on Friday evening at Strubby with Woodthorpe, near Alford, Lincolnshire, on premises about 2½ miles outside the present infected area in Lindsey, declared in consequence of the outbreaks in the Grimsby district.

A separate infected area, covering approximately 15 miles radius round the infected premises, has accordingly been declared by the Ministry, the northern boundary of which is co-terminous with part of the southern boundary of the Grimsby area.

A case of foot-and-mouth disease has occurred at Doncaster, a pig, the only animal on a dairyman's premises, being affected. The pig was slaughtered. Inspection of the premises of neighbouring pig dealers failed to reveal further traces of the disease.

Alleged Dangerous Thefts.

"A bag belonging to Mr. F. W. Chamberlain, a veterinary surgeon, and containing surgical instruments and drugs, disappeared from a motor-car in Shaftesbury Avenue," says *The Daily Express*, of February 6th.

"'My bag was undoubtedly stolen,' said Mr. Chamberlain to a representative. 'It contained, in addition to surgical instruments, particulars of five weeks' work, so that its loss is particularly distressing.'

"The description of Mr. Chamberlain's bag and its contents is as follows: brown leather handbag, with brass hinges and clasps, containing various instruments,including stethoscope, hypodermic syringe in case, various forceps, a wash-leather surgical pocket case, small instruments, two bottles of medicines with owners' names and addresses on labels.

"Also contains a case of twenty odd tubes of morphia tablets, a bottle of chloroform, a small phial of prussic acid, and a small reporter's notebook.

"This," comments the *Express*, "is the latest addition to a long list of thefts of poison from doctors' motor-cars reported during the last few months from various parts of the country. Scotland-yard is anxious to discover whether there is a market for stolen drugs."

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(Continued at foot of second column next page.)

The Veterinary Record.

11th February, 1928.

THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE APPEAL.

Principal Hobday has given the profession a shock—a shock which was first experienced by those who were privileged to attend the January meeting of the Central Veterinary Society at the Royal Veterinary College, but one which we are certain will rebound through the veterinary profession with this issue of the *Record*.

It has long been the custom of leaders of the profession, when assuming high office in our local or central organisations, to give a review of the prospects, immediate and future. These reviews are given in the sonorous and pleasant voice of the successful man. If somewhat inclined to be perissological, they are always high sounding. The profession is all right; its prospects were never better; there could be no better profession for the youth of the country to enter.

Knowing of these statements, what must the veterinary surgeon or layman think after reading Principal Hobday's paper? Here we have an account of the present derelict condition of the oldest Veterinary School in Britain. Is all this talk about the present and future prosperity of the profession a sham; is the profession itself at fault, or are we blest with government which is singularly unappreciative of services rendered? The reader's confusion is further confounded when he takes into account the reports on and illustrations of the various Colleges, colonial and foreign, with which the essayist has compared the Royal Veterinary College. That this College, the very cradle of the English-speaking veterinary world, every board and brick of which breathes of the past and its great traditions, every inch made sacred by the memory of those that are gone, should now, in the twentieth century, be nothing more than a collection of ramshackle buildings, totally inadequate for modern needs, is a scandal and disgrace to the British nation.

By nature our country is favoured above all others. We can and do produce the best stock, human or animal, in the world. The allegorical representative of our people, John Bull, is a farmer; the nation's prosperity has been largely built up, in the past, upon our successful farming; the stand-by of the British farmer is his live stock, and he relies for the safety of his animals upon his veterinary surgeon.

Without the services of the veterinary surgeon the live stock industry could never have survived the ravages of contagious or even sporadic disease amongst our flocks and herds.

What is the profession's reward from the nation? If the Royal Veterinary College can be any guide, it is nothing: a condition of things that does not tally with our national pride. In the past our colleges have been able to carry on and do their good work by their own efforts and with the help of our small profession. Our colleges have produced graduates unequalled by any other country; teachers and graduates have gone to every quarter of the globe, made good, and have probably been the greatest colonisers this country has produced. It is true, as the past has proved, that buildings, in themselves, do not make the man, but it is equally true that even in buildings we, as Britons, must march in the van of progress. Other countries have excelled us in the matter of buildings and equipment; governments have recognised the true value of the veterinarian to the community, and money has been lavished on their Colleges.

We must not lag behind; it is not part of the Briton's mentality to be beaten. We have the men; it is the least important part and the easiest to procure that we want. Rally to the support of our oldest College; encourage your friends and clients to subscribe, and worry your M.P. to see that the Government no longer neglects its duty to the profession and the country, but gives to Veterinary Education the support to which it is legitimately entitled.

"The smallest effort is not lost;
"Each wavelet on the ocean toss'd
"Aids in the ebb tide and the flow."

(*Continued from previous page.*)

"Eight guinea-pigs and two rabbits were yesterday found to have been stolen from a locked shed at the rear of the Royal Infirmary, Hull," says *The Times* of February 7th. "The animals were kept for scientific purposes by the medical staff of the institution and three of the guinea-pigs had been inoculated with an infectious disease.

"Urgent representations were made that the animals were a source of danger to the people who had taken them and to those about them, and a public warning was issued by the police that it was of the highest importance they should be returned.

"Last night the Hull C.I.D. stated that they had traced two boys who admitted having taken the guinea-pigs and rabbits from the shed. 'These boys,' a C.I.D. officer stated, 'sold the animals to five unknown men in the market on Saturday night for a few coppers. This means that the inoculated animals are scattered over the district. We are very anxious to get in touch with these men, and would be glad if they would come forward. I do not know the particular disease with which the animals are infected.'

"It is stated that the guinea-pigs bear scars from the inoculation."

N.V.M.A. CONGRESS AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
September 1st to 7th, 1928.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st.

Council Meeting.
Inaugural Meeting. Annual General Meeting.
Dance, with Cards available for non-dancers.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd.

Church Service (Academic Dress optional).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD.

Formal Opening of the Trade Exhibition by the President.

Morning: Paper: "The Veterinarian in Public Health," by Mr. H. T. Matthews, Liverpool. Discussion opened by Mr. James McAllan, Aberdeen.

Afternoon: Paper: "The Horse as a National Economic Factor," by Major General Sir John Moore, London. Discussion opened by Mr. T. Eaton Jones, Liverpool.
President's Reception.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th.

Morning: Paper: "Lamb Dysentery," by Mr. T. Dalling, Beckenham. Discussion opened by Mr. T. J. Bosworth, Cambridge.

Afternoon: Visit to Phillipson Farm Colony and Stannington Sanatorium.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th.

Morning: Paper: "The Constitutional Factor in Disease," by Dr. F. A. E. Crew, Edinburgh. Discussion opened by Mr. W. C. Miller, Edinburgh. Operations and Demonstrations.
Banquet.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th.

Morning: Paper: "The Adulterations of Foodstuffs, and their effects on Animals," by Professor R. G. Linton, Edinburgh. Discussion opened by Dr. J. F. Tocher, Aberdeen.

Afternoon: Paper: "Veterinary Education," by Colonel G. K. Walker, Abingdon. Discussion opened by Dr. O. Charnock Bradley, Edinburgh.
Popular Lecture: "Milk," by Lieut. Colonel J. W. Brittlebank, Manchester.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th.

Closing Meeting.
Council Meeting.
Excursion.

Further details regarding the social side of the programme will be published as these become available.

List of Recommended Hotels.

Royal Turk's Head, Grey Street. (HEADQUARTERS). Reserving provisionally 25 single and 25 double rooms. Bed and table d'hôte breakfast, 10s. each, or bed, table d'hôte breakfast, lunch and dinner, meals at stated times, 17s. 6d. each.

Easton Hall. A hostel used in connection with Armstrong College, can accommodate single gentlemen. Since it will be necessary for the Warden and the Staff to curtail their holiday to open the hostel, the Committee hope that those gentlemen attending the Congress alone will take full advantage if the facilities offered. Bed and breakfast, 7s 6d., dinner, 3s. 6d.

Central Station. Bed and breakfast, single from 12s. 6d., double from 24s., lunch, 3s. 6d.; dinner, 6s. 6d. Unless rooms are booked by 1st August they cannot be reserved for longer periods than bed and breakfast.

County, Neville Street. Bed and breakfast, 10s. 6d.; daily terms, 17s. 6d.

Grand, Barras Bridge. Bed and breakfast, 10s. 6d.; daily terms, 18s. 6d.

Imperial (Private), Jesmond Road. From 11s. 6d. daily.

Crown, Clayton Street. Bed and breakfast, 8s.; daily, 13s. 6d.; weekly, 3½ guineas.

St. Margarets (Private), Osborne Road. Bed and breakfast, 8s. 6d.; daily, 13s.

Central Exchange, Grey Street. Bed and breakfast, 8s.; lunch, 2s.; dinner, 4s.

Douglas, Grainger Street. Terms on application.

Kensington (Private), Osborne Road. Bed and breakfast, 6s. 6d.; weekly from 37s. 6d.

Osborne (Private), Osborne Road. Bed and bfreakfast, 8s. 6d.; weekly, 3½ guineas.

Langham (Private), Osborne Road. Bed and breakfast, 7s. 6d.; weekly, 66s.

COAST AREA.

Waverley, Whitley Bay. Bed and breakfast, 10s. 6d.

Grand, Tynemouth. Bed and breakfast, 9s. 6d.; daily, 14s. 6d.

Esplanade, Whitley Bay. Daily, 12s. 6s.

The coast area of Whitley Bay and Tynemouth forms an excellent locality for those desiring a seaside holiday, being situated some seven or eight miles from the city, and connected with it by a good and frequent service of electric trains.

Information regarding train services will be available at a later date.

Applications for accommodation in Easton Hall should be addressed to Mr. W. Lyle Stewart, M.R.C.V.S., Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE IS ESSENTIALLY A COMMERCIAL CITY, AND THE HOTELS HAVE THEIR REGULAR VISITORS. THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE PARTICULARLY DESIRE, THEREFORE, TO URGE THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY BOOKING ON GENTLEMEN PROPOSING TO ATTEND THE CONGRESS.

CLINICAL NOTE.

Nail Wounds and Tetanus.*

By Captain R. P. McComb.

The writer admits the habitual and routine employment of anti-tetanic serum for all deep or serious nail wounds of the horse's foot. To fail in the administration of the serum in such cases was deemed akin to negligence. The thought of doing otherwise was never entertained until several months service at this station, and then only after being apprised of the number of units of the serum charged to this detachment. The amount was appalling, and while the measure of success in avoiding tetanus was 100 per cent,. it prompted one to question the advisability of its routine use—whether or not the cost of serum was justified.

The gravity of the disease, the helplessness of the veterinary officer after the disease is contracted, and the fact that the serum is so efficacious, all combined to justify the injection of at least 1,500 units of anti-tetanic serum in all cases of penetrating nail wounds of the feet. This attitude appears to be predicated upon the belief that failure to employ serum in such instances is tantamount to committing malpractice. Several States have statutes which require that animal owners be admonished to purchase the serum or accept the responsibility in the event the animal develops tetanus. Probably the foregoing, subconsciously carried in one's mind, is accountable for the constant use of the serum. Implicit reliance, force of habit, second nature, etc.

At this post 112 animals were admitted to sick report in 1926 for nail wounds of the feet. It is believed that at least as many more were never recorded, since if the degree of injury to the sensitive tissue was very slight these animals were never excused from any part of their duties. So it follows, then, that the employment of serum on all these animals would be of considerable economic importance.

The Division Veterinarian expressed his belief in the matter ; he entertained no deep anxieties as far as tetanus was concerned, and believed the practice of routine employment to prevent tetanus unnecessary. The freedom from tetanus was not itself proof that serum was necessary. Experience had abundantly proven this area to be quite free of the *B. tetanus*. In view of the foregoing, the writer ceased to administer serum in all but the most serious—unusually serious, let us say—cases. The lack of morbidity and mortality statistics made this venture interesting, and obviously the proper way to determine the advisability of deviating from the beaten path in this respect was to check carefully the results as regards cost and disease and deaths, or loss.

The first animal admitted was carefully treated and, with great reluctance on the writer's part, dismissed without the serum. And so were many, many others. Gradually but certainly the fear of tetanus subsided, and practically all of these cases were allowed to " go the even tenor of their way " *serumless*. And it might here be recorded as passing strange that only to a limited degree did the need for the preventive serum remain apparent. A thorough cleansing and the use of antiseptic dressing became the obsession instead. As the number of animals continued to grow, and tetanus did not develop, the practice seemed vindicated, although the writer calculated it would lead to embarrassment sooner or later. If it failed to do so, then, and then only, would it prove to be an example of waste which invariably emphasises the need of better management in the expenditure of our drug stocks. And in view of the figures herein presented it is my conclusion that in districts where tetanus is rarely observed the habitual employment of the serum is unwarranted, and an economic blunder. At Remount depôts it might be justified in the case of valuable animals, in spite of the fact that the tetanus bacillus seemed a rare visitor.

Since 1922, approximately 1,200 admissions from nail wounds occurred. Of these, only two developed tetanus. One of the two received the injury at Fabens, Texas (down the valley), and did receive 1,500 units of anti-tetanic serum. It follows, then, that for the purpose of this review, cognisance need not be taken of this Fabens case. The other animal, according to the sick card, was " observed to have tetanus in corral," no wound discovered. Both of these animals died.

A third animal must be considered, since Card No. 170, 1922, indicated " Tetanus, cause—street nail, penetrating frog—removed nail and treated as nail prick case. Anti-tetanic serum injected 12,000 units A.M. and P.M." In view of the fact that 12,000 units were employed immediately, it is logical to presume that this animal was already affected with tetanus when admitted, and that the nail wound had not been discovered until that time ; consequently this case does not influence the policy under consideration.

It would appear therefore that the habitual use of serum is unwarranted and a wasteful procedure in this post.

[Note. (By the Editor of the *Bulletin*.) This article by Captain McComb is of unusual interest because of the stand taken and the conclusions arrived at. In the opinion of this office, this paper and its deductions might tend to discredit a most valuable line of treatment, and it is believed that the routine use of the serum will in the final analysis be a great economic procedure. Comment is invited.]

* *U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Bulletin*, Vol. XX., No. 6.

Professor Calmette.

The French correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* writing in the issue of that paper of 7th January, says :

" Professor Calmette, assistant director of the Institute Pasteur in Paris and a member of the Académie de Médecine has just been elected a member of the Académie des Sciences. It is not necessary for me to recall that Dr. Calmette has to his credit a record of scientific researches sufficient to overburden any ordinary man. He gave his energies first to the study of snake venoms and to the production of antivenomous serum ; next he attacked the problem of the infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis. His researches with regard to vaccination of young bovine animals against tuberculosis led to the discovery of B.C.G., designed to protect the newborn infant against tuberculosis—a discovery which, in its practical applications seems to be one of the most important made in our epoch."

REPORT.

[Annual Report on the Civil Veterinary Department, United Provinces (India), FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1926, PP. 26.].

The Report is submitted by Captain S. G. M. HICKEY, M.R.C.V.S., I.V.S., in his capacity of Veterinary Adviser to the Government of the United Provinces, and in acknowledging its receipt, the Secretary to Government says: "The Government have read the report with interest and I am to convey their thanks for the good work done by you and the officers of the department throughout the year." It is especially satisfactory, in the present transitional stage of administration in India, to find that veterinary work should arouse the interest and earn the gratitude of those in authority.

The report is an unsophisticated and industrious document which chronicles the performance of an enormous amount of routine work zealously done under conditions which could not well admit of anything but routine work.

The staff seems to have comprised three European and four Indian Veterinary Officers, with a subordinate Indian staff of eighteen Veterinary Inspectors and 184 Veterinary Assistants.

At the beginning of the year there were 138 Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Provinces and at the end of the year 149, a substantial increase.

As in other Indian reports, the figures relating to work done are arresting: "Inoculation against rinderpest, hæmorrhagic septicæmia and blackquarter, rose to 160,765, as against 145,956 of the previous year."

In the dispensaries "The total number of animals treated . . . . was 7,806 in-patients and 207,451 out-patients . . . . an increase of 2,429. Two thousand, nine hundred and five animals were castrated."

Veterinary touring personnel visited 14,175 villages and treated and castrated 57,946 animals.

It is noteworthy that, while no extravagant claims for the efficacy of inoculations are made in the text of the report, the great increase in inoculations coincided with a marked decrease in the mortality from contagious diseases.

This variation may, however, have been due, more or less, to other reasons: for example, it is stated with refreshing candour concerning the incidence of mortality from hæmorrhagic septicæmia, that "There is no doubt that during the year under report *climatic conditions* have materially checked the onset of the disease"—and again: "There is a considerable reduction in the death rate from hæmorrhagic septicæmia, anthrax, blackquarter and foot-and-mouth disease."

"The figures shown in the tables were compiled from the reports received from the *patwaris* which cannot be relied upon."

Now, these statements are made in the true scientific spirit and they are singularly relevant to certain criticisms, made on the figures relating to the supposed results of preventive inoculation in a review of another Indian Report recently published in the *Veterinary Record*. It is well known that, as a rule, the only way to assess the value of protective inoculations is by means of observed controls, but when inoculations are carried out on so large a scale as in India it may be that a comparison of the figures relating to inoculations with those relating to mortality from the several diseases *year by year* will give sufficient information. For example: if the mortality from rinderpest, hæmorrhagic septicæmia and blackquarter (which are the diseases for which the inoculation is done), continues to decrease roughly in proportion to the increase in the inoculations, while at the same time the mortality from diseases for which there is no available means of preventive inoculation does not correspondingly decrease, it will be possible very greatly to strengthen the case for the inoculations and to determine the variations in the relative efficacy of the inoculations for the appropriate diseases. If, on the other hand, the reduction in mortality from contagious disease in a series of years is on the whole much the same for all the diseases, as appears to have been the case in the United Provinces during 1926-7, then we must look to influences other than inoculations for the main cause of the lower mortality.

It is not at all intended to suggest that the protective inoculation carried out against rinderpest, hæmorrhagic septicæmia and blackquarter in India during 1926-7 was not efficacious, but it is an odd, and in some respects an unfortunate, coincidence that the reduction in mortality from foot-and-mouth disease, anthrax, and "other contagious diseases" is shown in the report to have been proportionately more considerable than the reduction in mortality from rinderpest, septicæmia and blackquarter. The following table is illustrative:—

Disease.	Inoculations.	Mortality, 1925-6.	Mortality, 1926-7.
Rinderpest	160,763	24,778	22,110
Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia ...		4,053	2,674
Blackquarter		404	370
Foot-and-Mouth Disease	Nil	6,590	2,712
Anthrax		1,879	1,295
Other Contagious Diseases ...		1,157	631

The bacteriologist might say that any adverse assumption as to the efficacy of protective inoculations based on the foregoing figures is fallacious: he might point out that if the inoculations, for example, against rinderpest had been neglected the mortality from that disease, instead of decreasing during the year, would have greatly increased. The efficacy of inoculation against certain diseases in individuals is, of course, abundantly proved, butwhat has not yet been clearly shown in regard to enzootic diseases, prevailing in great numbers of animals spread over a vast and practically uncontrollable area, is the comparative effect ultimately of artificial, and especially serum-alone, inoculation *versus* natural infection, the elimination of susceptible stock, and naturally-produced immunity. It may soon be possible for veterinary administrators to take a bigger and more actuarial view of disease statistics than has been taken in the past:

reports like that under review rendered faithfully and painfully year by year are beginning to yield valuable fruit of which fuller advantage might in some instances be taken. Just as insurance companies know now almost exactly how many years different groups of people may live, so at no distant date will it be possible for veterinary administrators to know roughly what financial return in the form of reduced mortality in enzootic diseases may be expected from a given expenditure on certain methods of prevention.

Veterinary departments might, indeed, in some instances, do well to seek actuarial assistance; a little of what used to be termed in youthful military circles "X chasing" is certainly indicated by these reports. Perhaps, however, at present the only certain test is time: the observations must be continued over a period of years to show the comparative and ultimate effect of any special preventive measures upon one or more disease, out of the enzootic groups. A section of the report is devoted to "Breeding Operations"; fifty-one horse and pony stallions and thirteen provincial donkey stallions are at the disposal and under the care of the Veterinary Department for public stud purposes.

These animals are distributed throughout the Provinces at what are termed "Stands" in various districts. The object is, of course, the improvement of breeds, and in pursuance of this object shows and fairs are held which, as far as possible, the veterinary officers attend and assist by judging and in other ways. The cost of the Veterinary Department for the year appears to have been about £23,000.

There are several statistical tables and a map of the Provinces showing the distribution of the veterinary units.

Captain Hickey concludes his report with some generous references to the work of his helpers and by giving the programme of work to be carried out in 1927-8 as follows:—

1. General expansion of the department, if funds permit. [This formula seems familiar—*Reviewer.*].
2. Investigation into obscure forms of animal diseases, treatment of surra by new methods and inoculations for suppression of cattle diseases.
3. Extension of horse and mule breeding.

J. W. R.

R.C.V.S. Obituary.

Cockburn, Robert, The Gables, Sutton-on-Sea, Lincs. Graduated, N. Edinburgh, 12th April, 1882. Died, 26th January, 1928, aged 75 years.

. . . . . .

Prince, F. T., King Street, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Graduated, London, 14th July, 1905. Died, 29th January, 1928, aged 44 years.

. . . . . .

Brasnett, Walter Ashley, Cheltenham Street, Wells, Somerset. Graduated, London, 17th July, 1909. Died, 28th January, 1928, aged 41 years.

. . . . . .

Johnson.—On December 24th, 1927, at Christchurch, Alexander Adair, F.R.C.V.S., dearly loved husband of Emma Jane Johnson, 90 McFadden's Road, St. Alban's; in his 55th year. (Suddenly.)

DIVISIONAL REPORT.

Southern Counties' Division.

Colonel Middleton Perry on "Electro-therapy in Veterinary Practice."

(*Continued from page* 99.)

High-Frequency Treatment.

Passing on to deal with High-Frequency Treatment, Colonel Perry first explained what was meant by the term and the difference between direct and alternating current. "High-Frequency Current," he went on to say, "is really an adaptation of the old Faradic battery current, with this very marked difference—that the frequency of the former is so rapid that the muscular tissues cannot respond as they do with the Faradic current, producing those well-known painful muscular contractions. It is found, in fact, that at a frequency of 10,000 these tetanic contractions disappear, as also does the pain. This is supposed to be due to the inability of the sensory nerves to respond to such rapid alternations, and in these higher frequencies the contractile effort is expended on the individual cells rather than on the individual muscles. This, Eberhart considered, produces a form of cellular massage to which he largely attributed the beneficial results. You will appreciate the rapidity of frequency of these alternations when you realise that in some machines it is estimated in millions of impulses per second, and it is on this account that the treatment is rendered so eminently suitable for our patients. They do not object to its application in the least, and no restraint other than just holding the animal is necessary. There is, of course, a variety of opinions about the constitutional effects, but it is generally accepted that the currents increase bodily heat, to which some authorities attribute the beneficial results, while others side with Eberhart in considering that the form of cellular massage already mentioned is the leading factor and therefore has a good effect on metabolism. Again, D'Arsonval showed that there was an increase in the output of carbon dioxide, of nitrogen and phosphates in the urine and an increased output of heat. These currents have also an influence on the vascular system, producing a vaso-dilation. Many other theories have been propounded, but Eberhart classifies them thus: increased general metabolism, glandular activity, temperature and bodily heat, oxidation and hæmoglobin, secretions and eliminations, lower blood pressure when high tension exists and soothing to the nervous system.

"With regard to apparatus, there are many on the market and one will not go far wrong in dealing with a reputable firm specialising in such instruments. They are not expensive and cost little in use, the primary current being obtained from the main supply. Technique is simple. The current is applied to the patient by means of vacuum glass electrodes, which are made in various shapes to suit all requirements. On switching on the current, the glass electrodes assume a violet colour, on account of which this form of electro-

therapy has been termed by the local hairdresser (and I am sorry to say by others) ' Violet-ray Treatment.' That is misleading and incorrect, as High-Frequency has nothing whatever to do with ultra-violet ray or artificial sunlight. The electrodes are placed upon the part requiring treatment and the current is gradually switched on. So long as the electrodes are kept in close apposition to the skin, the patient feels nothing, but there is a slight pricking sensation when they are held slightly away. The application is continued for from five to seven minutes, usually daily, but this naturally depends upon the case. I have never experienced any ill effect, but burning may take place unless care is exercised when applying the treatment to a mucous surface. There are many different methods of application, but the one I have described is the most simple, and the one I have found most useful in treating our patients. It certainly has given me most gratifying results in cases of paralysis from various causes, muscular atrophy, loss of muscular tone, etc. I have found it also to have a wonderful bracing-up effect on the whole system, and this is noticed even after the first application and has been remarked upon repeatedly. It is a fine stimulus to the skin and growth of hair, and quickly breaks down any old dry epithelium which may be present, leaving the skin clean, soft and flaccid. Good results have also been obtained in cases of enlarged joints and when lameness and pain exist after fractures. Many cases of rheumatism are also amenable to this treatment. Massage can be combined with High-Frequency and seems to be advantageous in some cases when a hardening of the muscular tissue is present. This is accomplished by connecting the wire to a foil plate instead of to an electrode. The patient is made to stand with his fore or hind legs on this and the current again gradually turned on, and the operator massages the affected part. Here, again, the fingers must be kept closely on the skin or sparks are quickly appreciated passing from the patient to the operator. If the electrode is held slightly away from the skin a shower of sparks or what is termed an effleuve—they are really too small for sparks—will be seen passing the space thus formed. This effleuve produces a rapid erythema and is very useful for stimulating the healing of ulcers, inflammatory processes, and some skin affections, and in reducing thickenings of the skin. Care must be taken not to prolong the treatment, or burning may result. The treatment known as Fulguration is used for escharotic or destructive purposes such as the removal of warts and other small growths. It is applied by means of a special electrode which is repeatedly brought within sparking distance of the affected part. By this method the pain is very slight, whereas if the electrode is held continuously close to the growth the pain is acute and much resented, unless of course a local anæsthetic is given. It is best to cauterise around the edges of the growth first and then well fulgurate the centre. I have found it very useful myself for treating those small unpediculated growths which are so common in some dogs' skin. Diathermy is another form of High-Frequency treatment, but as I have only recently taken this up I am not at present prepared to pass an opinion on its therapeutic value, but it is highly spoken of in the medical profession, and is one of the most up-to-date methods of treatment. It can be made to cover any definite area between the poles and to extend to any depth in the tissue, and it may be carried to such a depth as to cause a slough, so that the treatment is really divided into medical and surgical. The general principle of the treatment is that the current is carried through the affected part by means of the current passing between the two plates, one on either side, and that the current passing from one to the other carries with it this internal heat. It can be concentrated as one desires by reducing or increasing the size of the plates. The treatment is specially recommended in the human subject for sprains, fractures, adhesions, fibrous desposit around joints, arthritis, rheumatism, sciatica and neuritis, etc., so that there is ample scope for experimental work in our patients, but I am sorry to say the apparatus is expensive."

Dealing with what is probably the most modern of all forms of treatment, even in the medical profession, ultra-violet radiation, Colonel Perry first asked his audience to consider its nature and general properties. The heat and luminous waves formed the visible rays and had the power of promoting warmth and producing vaso-dilation, and the luminous rays had also the power of penetrating the deeper layers of the skin, but they had little bactericidal action and could not produce an erythema. The chemical, invisible, or ultra-violet rays, on the other hand, had a very marked bactericidal effect, but their power of penetration was small. Since the luminous rays could heat the deeper layers of the skin they considerably helped the action of the ultra-violet rays, and for this reason it was now more the general practice to combine radiant heat treatment in giving ultra-violet radiation. One could also appreciate the fact that ultra-violet radiation not only affected the skin but the general bodily health. He was afraid, however, that time would not permit him to go further into the question of the therapy of the rays and he could only refer those interested to some of the many textbooks dealing with the subject.

Sources of Radiation.

Passing on to deal with the sources of radiation, Colonel Perry said that of the two types of lamps in use for general irradiation the enclosed mercury vapour lamp was, in his opinion, the most generally useful. It was what was known as the atmospheric type, in that the arc was struck and combustion took place at atmospheric pressure, and it had several advantages. It was automatic in action, less fragile, clean in use, and its quartz could be restored to its original condition after considerable use. The particular type he fancied, that made by the British Hanovia Quartz Lamp Co., could also be used for local application simply by drawing down a cowl in which there was a diaphragm with various-sized apertures restricting the beam of light so that it could be directed on the desired spot. He had now had this lamp in use for a considerable time, and it had never once failed him or given him the least trouble. It was, however, considered that the radiations of the mercury vapour type of lamp gave did not quite cover the same range as, for instance, the tungsten arc lamp, and on account of this it was advantageous to supplement it with the use of a radiant heat lamp. In connection with the mercury vapour lamps, mention must also be made of the Kromayer lamp, which was

specially designed for internal or cavity work. It was a water-cooled lamp, and the cavity irradiation was effected by directing the rays through special quartz transmitters of various shapes to suit the requirements. The tungsten arc lamps emitted radiation of a remarkable uniformity and were considered by some to be the best source, but the tungsten rods were expensive. On the other hand, the exposure was short as was also the case with the mercury vapour lamp. The carbon arc was not nearly so rich in ultra-violet rays as that produced by either of the two lamps he had already mentioned, and for this reason the exposure had to be prolonged, but it emitted a good radiation in the near ultra-violet region which had great skin penetration powers. It was generally employed when a number of patients could be treated at one time. Other materials than tungsten and carbon had now been placed on the market in the form of cored carbon and tungsten cored carbon. These consisted of a carbon sheath filled with various metals such as powdered tungsten iron wolfram, etc.; and they fell midway between the pure tungsten and solid carbon and had the advantage of being cheaper than the former and richer in ultra-violet rays than the latter.

The method of treatment, Colonel Perry went on to say, was simple, the patient being placed on the table and held steadily by an assistant, who, like the operator, wore shaded glasses to protect the eyes. The patient should also have both eyes protected either by means of goggles or by placing a cloth over the head. As soon as the current was turned on there was a little crackling but the patient quickly became used to this and seemed to enjoy his sun bath. For local treatment the rays were directed on the desired spot simply by lowering a cowl in the quartz mercury vapour lamp. Otherwise this was raised and a general irradiation given. "At first," Colonel Perry continued, "I used to place the animal on its back and concentrate on the under surface of the body and between the thighs where the hair is thin, and I often clipped these parts entirely, but recently I had allowed the rays to play on the chest walls and back with equally good results by continually rubbing the hair up with the hand.

"With regard to dosage," continued the lecturer, "this is extremely difficult to determine, as there seems to be a great idiosyncrasy in our patients, but it must be remembered that the effect varies inversely with the square of the distance the patient is from the lamp. This is a matter, I am afraid, which experience alone will teach us, but ten minutes at eighteen inches is the general exposure I advise, and this may be repeated daily according to the reaction and the case under treatment. One might be guided on this point by the effect of the first exposure and the amount of erythema produced. This is by no means satisfactory, but it does help in determining the exposure which may be given to the particular case. Every case must be carefully considered and treated individually, but you will find, generally speaking, that the coarser the dog the longer the exposure needed. This would naturally be so, as the skin of the toy pet dog is much more delicate than that of an outdoor yard dog. My personal experience has led me to believe that the ultra-violet rays have great beneficial effect in some systemic diseases, skin diseases and in general bodily health. Great benefit is undoubtedly derived by this treatment for rickets. This is thought to be brought about by the changes which cholesterol undergoes. This substance is formed in every cell, especially in the skin, and when exposed to the rays acquires new anti-rachitic properties. I have now treated many cases of rickets—some exceedingly bad, but all have shown marked improvement and many have completely recovered. These cases have been in the heavy breeds such as Alsatians, Airedales and Great Danes, but I am of opinion that it is advantageous to combine the administration of cod liver oil with the irradiations, as has been found to be the case in the human subject. The average number of irradiations for each case has been twelve, but the improvement is progressive for some considerable time afterwards. General bodily health is, I think, in nearly every case improved, and has been remarked upon by the owners frequently. The hair assumes new lustre and the skin becomes flaccid and loose, and the general appearance brighter. This, I think, can be assumed to be due to the treatment alone, as in many cases in order to determine the point no alteration has been made in the diet nor has any other treatment been afforded. There seems to be also a great stimulus to the growth of hair, probably due to the improvement in health. With regard to eczema, in acute cases where there is exudation very mild doses quickly bring relief and cure. In the sub-acute form, when the lesions are vesicular and incrusted, I have found it advisable to remove any crusts before giving the treatment, when the exposure may be increased and intensified, and in the chronic scaly forms a good stiff dose may be given daily for some days before much beneficial result is observed. The skin will then be found to be looking cleaner and feels less thickened, when the irradiation may be gradually reduced. Follicular mange has been disappointing, as I have had many more failures than successes under this treatment; likewise chorea, in which disease the rays seem to have no effect other than in improving the general health. Ulceration of the gums and lips responds readily and can be undertaken with confidence, and pyorrhœa seems to be influenced beneficially. Indolent wounds and ulcers, which are often unresponsive to all other forms of treatment, heal up readily from the first application, and really one wants to see the result in some cases in order to believe it possible. In cases of pneumonia some appear to receive considerable benefit while others are not affected. Likewise distemper. In fact, as far as my present experience goes, I am not prepared to pass a definite opinion either way as to the value of this treatment in these diseases, but I am convinced that a few applications after a debilitating disease, especially during the winter months have a great beneficial effect."

In conclusion, Colonel Perry said he could not close the subject of Electro-therapy without a word about X-rays. He was rather sceptical about installing this at the outset, but let him say at once he had no idea of the great help and service there were to be derived from it for diagnostic purposes. When in doubt, a screen examination, taking only a few seconds and costing nothing more than a few seconds' current of electricity, often set one's mind at rest and conclusively determined the exact injury or affection with which one had to deal. (Applause.)

Discussion.

The President, in inviting discussion, said Colonel Perry had given them a most interesting paper. He had installed a violet-ray lamp himself, but the only case he had treated was one of follicular mange and that had been completely successful. Whether the cure would prove permanent, however, he was unable to say.

Mr. Caudwell said one of the points some of them would like to have a little guidance upon was the fees Colonel Perry charged. It was obviously necessary to dip one's hands into one's pocket if they were to go in for this treatment and it would be very nice to know how much they could charge. He would also like to know where Colonel Perry got his supply of electricity. Did he obtain it from the ordinary lighting supply to his house ?

Colonel Perry : Mine comes off the power supply, because you get that at a cheaper rate.

Mr. Caudwell remarked that they had been told that that treatment had a stimulating effect on dogs and it seemed to him that it might in that case be used for doping greyhounds, but he did not know what the Kennel Club would say about that. (Laughter.)

Colonel Perry said the treatment undoubtedly had a very fine tonic effect but he did not think they could regard it as a sort of treatment one would want to give to dogs that were supposed to be healthy and fit for racing.

Mr. Facer wished, in the first place, to thank Colonel Perry very much for coming down and giving them such an interesting paper. He had had one of these lamps for something like eighteen months and it had occurred to him that it might be very useful in the case of grease and canker in the horse. There was no doubt as to the tonic value of these ultra-violet rays. He had used it for follicular mange and he believed it did good, although he had not succeeded in clearing the disease entirely.

Colonel Perry remarked that the trouble with follicular mange was that they could not do the whole surface; and, having briefly replied to the discussion, in answer to a further inquiry as to the best text books on the subject, suggested "The Science of Medical Electricity" and "Diathermy," by E. P. Cumberback ; "High-Frequency Manual," by Eberhart, and "Ultra-Violet Radiation and Actino-therapy," by E. H. and W. K. Russell.

Mr. Caudwell asked if members knew anything about the thymus gland in cats, explaining that he asked the question because until recently he had never lost one when chloroforming, but since telling a client this it had been his misfortune to lose one and he found absolutely nothing to account for it except a very big thymus gland.

The President suggested that if Mr. Caudwell used pure ether he would not have any trouble.

Mr. Caudwell remarked that there was this to be said for chloroform, that it was much quicker.

The President said that he did not know. He had done dozens with ether, using the Hobday muzzle or mask, and they would be surprised how quickly they went under.

Any Other Business.

Mr. Whitley Baker raised the question of making a contribution to the Royal Veterinary College Building Fund. He had noticed that various other Societies connected with their profession had voted certain sums, and although he could not say definitely at the moment exactly how much money they had in hand, he would pledge himself, in the event of their voting say £5 5s., that there would be the money to meet it. He thought it behoved them to do what they could for this Fund.

The President remarked that, to bring the question to a definite issue, he would propose that they vote a donation of £5 5s. He quite agreed with Mr. Whitley Baker that they ought to support this Fund if they had the money.

Mr. Ripley expressed the view that there were other objects, such as the Victoria Benevolent Fund, which were quite as deserving of their support. He was not going to vote against the motion, but could they give him any good reasons why they, as a body, should subscribe ?

Mr. Caudwell believed the Government had offered to provide £1 for every £1 subscribed voluntarily up to £35,000, so that it would be a great pity if they did not raise as much as possible.

Captain Rockett thought they were all out to do what they could and some of them had already done so individually, but, with regard to the suggestion that they should make a donation as a Society, he rather felt with Mr. Ripley that any money they had to spare should go towards the Victoria Benevolent Fund.

Mr. Whitley Baker remarked that he was very glad Captain Rockett had referred to the Victoria Benevolent Fund. Possibly they did not know it, but that Fund had been a pet of his every since he joined the Society, and he had been greatly disappointed on looking through the subscription list to see that it was not better supported by the members of the profession. He thought they ought to do far more and if they were only willing to support the Benevolent Fund by a donation he would willingly drop the other.

Mr. Facer said that two or three members had approached him privately asking him what he proposed to give, as they wanted to send something to the building of a new College and he happened to know that several of them had sent subscriptions. He did not think they need be ashamed of what the members of their Society were doing. Let them vote a donation to the Victoria Benevolent Fund by all means, if they had not already done so, but he thought the other matter could be allowed to drop.

Major Martin seconded this and it was unanimously agreed to, Mr. Whitley Baker remarking that there was a great deal in what Mr. Facer had said and that he must candidly admit that his "baby" was the Benevolent Fund.

A collection subsequently taken in the meeting for the Benevolent Fund realised 31s. 6d.

The President invited suggestions for the next meeting and mentioned that he believed they could get Professor Hobday to give them a demonstration. That would mean a visit to London, and it was a question whether they should combine that with their annual meeting in March or whether they should hold a special meeting in the meantime.

Mr. Pack remarked that some of them would very much like to see Colonel Perry give them a demonstration of the treatment he had been advocating that afternoon, and Colonel Perry replied that he should only be too pleased

to extend the Society a hearty welcome if they cared to come to Wimbledon.

Eventually it was unanimously agreed that arrangements be made, if possible, to hold a special meeting in London between now and the annual meeting.

The PRESIDENT proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Colonel Perry for his paper that afternoon and also for offering to give them a demonstration on some future occasion. This was seconded by Mr. CAUDWELL and carried by acclamation.

On the proposition of Mr. RIPLEY, a hearty vote of thanks was also accorded the President for his hospitality in providing tea.

JOHN FACER. *Hon. Secretary.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

Diary of Events.

Feb. 13th—Meeting of the Editorial Committee, N.V.M.A., 4-30 p.m.

Feb. 15th—Meeting of the Southern Counties Division at the Royal Veterinary College, London, 2-30 p.m.

Feb. 24th—Annual Dinner and Meeting of the Midland Counties Division at Grand Hotel, Birmingham, at 6-30 p.m.

NEWCASTLE CONGRESS PROGRAMME.

We would direct the attention of our readers to the Provisional Programme of the "National" Congress, to be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, from the 1st to the 7th September next, which is published on page 117. After carefully perusing it, they will, we are confident, re-echo the opinion expressed by the President at the last meeting of Council N.V.M.A. that the Provisional Committee has thus far excelled itself in the task of furnishing an attractive and well-balanced programme. The programme is also noteworthy for the innovation whereby the proceedings are arranged to commence on the Saturday. The holding of the Council, Inaugural, and Annual General Meetings, with a Sunday's interval before the scientific concerns of the Congress are entered upon, strikes us as an admirable arrangement—a view which we believe will be endorsed by the Association as a whole.

THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE REBUILDING FUND.

The total amount collected or promised towards the fund for rebuilding the Royal Veterinary College, London, at 31st January was £18,810 0s. 3d. We hope to publish a list of subscriptions in our next issue.

WALTHAMSTOW U.D.C.—APPOINTMENT.

Concerning the announcement appearing on advertisement page ii. inviting applications for the position of Veterinary Surgeon to the Walthamstow Urban District Council, we would draw our readers' attention to the ascertained fact that this appointment is open to tender, and to the Resolution of Council R.C.V.S., appearing on page 88 of the *Register* that deprecates tendering by veterinary surgeons.

R.C.V.S. COUNCIL MEETING—A CORRECTION.

Sir John M'Fadyean writes:—

"In the report of the recent meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in the last number of the *Veterinary Record* (page 91, second column) there is an error that exactly reverses the meaning of the sentence in which it occurs. I am there made to say—'It would be very bad taste on my part to suggest that these were unintentional terms of flattery . . .' The words should have been 'intentional terms of flattery.'"

SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of the Council of the Shire Horse Society it was announced that the King and Queen would attend the next London Show of the Society, which will be held from February 21 to 23 at the Royal Agricultural Hall. The show is for stallions, mares and geldings. There are 254 entries, as compared with 320 last year.

The report of the Council for 1927 states:—

"The Society has throughout enjoyed the countenance of the members of the Royal Family, perpetuated during the year under review to the third generation. At the December meeting of the Council, Mrs. Stanton made the following very gratifying announcement: 'The Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and Prince Henry have consented to add their names to the roll of membership. As you know, I am appealing to all hunting people to become members of the Society as reciprocating the privilege of riding over the farmers' land, and it was partly on this ground that I appealed to their Royal Highnesses to become members of the Shire Horse Society as an example to the hunting world. I ventured to submit that their Royal Highnesses' association with the national work of the Shire Horse Society would perpetuate to the third generation the interest and support initiated by King Edward VII. as its first Patron and President in 1886 and 1899, and graciously maintained by King George V.'

"This announcement emphasises the deep obligations of the Society to Mrs. Stanton during her year of office as its first lady President, and accentuated by her generous offer of a perpetual challenge cup for the best Shire-bred gelding at the forthcoming London Show. Recognition of that indebtedness should stimulate a reciprocal response by members to the appeal of the President to increase the lady membership of the Society, and at the present time to give practical effect to the suggestion made at the last annual general meeting that members individually should do missionary work on behalf of the heavy horse."

The number of members on January 1 was 4,775, and 33 new members were admitted at the meeting.

Mr. A. T. Lloyd, of Lockinge House, Wantage, was elected President for 1928.

PERSONAL.

Marriages.—STENNETT-WILLETT. January 28th, 1928, at Marylebone Parish Church, J. Barratt Stennett to Molly, only daughter of Mr. J. Willett, 7 Harley Place, N.W.1.

McKee—Nash. January 18th, 1928, at St. James's Church, Congleton, George McKee, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., 15 Beam Street, Nantwich, Cheshire, only son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. McKee, 19 Connaught Street, Phibsborough, Dublin, to Doris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Minshull, Poulton, Pulford, and widow of Norman Henry Nash.

Appointments.—At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Governors of the Royal Veterinary College, held on 30th January, Mr. A. B. Orr, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., was appointed to the post of Demonstrator of Pathology.

The King has approved the appointment of Lord Stradbroke, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E., D.L., to be Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in succession to Lord Bledisloe, resigned.

. . . . . .

Will.—Wallis, Mr. Frederick Morton, M.R.C.V.S., of Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, veterinary surgeon (net personalty, £3,319), £5,143.

. . . . . .

Owing to the cessation of cattle shipments to Great Britain, Mr. D. B. Rodger, veterinary representative of the British Ministry of Agriculture, is leaving Canada for Argentina.

Veterinarian on Need of Ministry of Health for Northern Ireland.

"The need in Northern Ireland for a Ministry of Health was emphasised last night at a meeting of the North of Ireland Veterinary Medical Association by the President, Mr. J. Ewing Johnston, M.B.E., M.R.C.V.S." says *The Belfast News* of 4th February. "His remarks were endorsed by Colonel Thomas Sinclair, C.B., M.P.

"Mr. Ewing Johnston said that, unfortunately, Northern Ireland could not claim to be in the forefront in regard to public health matters, but he hoped, as a result of the Government's consideration of the report of the Public Health and Poor Law Commission, it would embark on reforms that had been too long delayed. He therefore had the temerity to express the hope that amongst those reforms would be the creation of a Ministry of Public Health for Northern Ireland, and that within its walls both the medical and veterinary professions might find their legitimate places, and thus have the opportunity to render in full measure the great services in combating disease and conserving health which it was within their power to give to their fellow-countrymen. The late Dr. O'Neill, who was a pioneer in matters pertaining to public health, used the slogan, 'The health of the people is the supreme law.' He would like to impress on the Government the truth of those words, and to ask them to bring Ulster into line with all other civilised nations in this all-important matter.

"Colonel Sinclair said that if a Ministry were set up, health regulations and orders would have greater force and power."

R.S.P.C.A. Case Fails at Epsom.

At Epsom Petty Sessions, William Larkin, Bruce Lodge, Burgh Heath Road, was summoned for, on divers days between January 1st and 10th, causing unnecessary suffering to two horses by unreasonably omitting to give them proper and necessary care and attention. Mr. Gordon Jones appeared for the R.S.P.C.A., and Mr. P. M. MacMahon for defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

Before all the witnesses for the defence had been called, the Bench dismissed the case.

Mr. MacMahon said he was justified in asking for costs. The prosecution had been embarked upon in a most ill-advised manner.

The magistrates granted £5 5s. costs.

Army Veterinary Service.

London Gazette—War Office—Regular Army Reserve of Officers.

Feb. 7.—Lt. J. O'C. Taylor, from Reg. Army Res. of Off. R.U. Rif., to be Lt. (Feb. 8), with seniority Nov. 4, 1922.

A Medical Officer's Salary.

Council's Dispute with the B.M.A.

"A special meeting of the Surrey County Council was held yesterday at the County Hall, Kingston, to consider a report of the Establishment Committee as to the appointment of a county medical officer in the place of Dr. Cater, who has resigned in circumstances which have never been stated in open council," says *The Times* of Wednesday last. "The Establishment Committee, in their report, stated that when they considered the appointment of another county medical officer they decided that an appropriate salary would be £1,500 per annum with pension rights, which would be an additional charge of £100. The appointment was advertised in a number of newspapers, but when the advertisement was offered to the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* it was declined on the ground that the salary offered was £100 below the minimum laid down by the British Medical Association's salary scale. At the same time the *British Medical Journal* published the following:—

"'Medical practitioners are requested not to apply for any appointment referred to in the following table without having first communicated with the medical secretary of the British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.'

"The Committee added that they communicated with the Minister of Health, as a result of which there was a conference between the Committee and the British Medical Association, at which the Chairman of the County Council appealed for some measure of accommodation as to the application of the minimum scale, but the British Medical Association declined to entertain any compromise, and as this raised a question of principle whether county councils were free to determine the remuneration of their officers, or whether they must adopt a scale prescribed by an association of medical men in no way responsible to the ratepayers, they recommended that the Council confer with the County Councils Association on the subject, and that the appointment of a county medical officer in the meantime be deferred.

"In the course of discussion, Mr. W. M. Willcocks, Chairman of the Committee, said the point for the Council to consider was that they must retain their rights to fix the salaries of their chief officers without interference. He appealed to the doctors to consider this.

"Colonel Bidder said the Council's offer of £1,500 was boycotted. It was a challenge to the Council, and they should take it up and fight it out. They should suffer dictation from nobody, doctors or anybody else.

"Sir William Jones said if they admitted this attitude of the British Medical Association where were they to stop? Why not demand a particular salary for the County Surveyor or the Clerk to the Council, or even for the assistants of those two officials?

"One member asked what was to happen to the health of the county if they postponed the appointment of a medical officer indefinitely, but it was explained that the subordinate officers in the Health Department would see to that.

"It was decided that the appointment be deferred, and that there be a conference with the County Councils Association on the subject."

Children's Mounts.

"Now that our children have returned to school we may well reflect on our own shortcomings. Let us think of the nasty little ponies on which we have mounted them during the holidays," says the writer of "Hunting Notes" in *The Times*. "Anything will do for a child of 9 or 10; any self-willed, hard-mouthed little brute, usually so badly shaped as to make it necessary to anchor the saddle astern with a crupper, to prevent it from coming off over the pony's head. Anything is alleged to be good enough for children to learn on, even the harness pony, straight from the governess cart. Such mounts are just as likely to put children off riding for ever as to encourage them. A few hardy boys—and girls, too—may not mind being shaken up and being taken charge of, but many more will begin to think that riding is a rough-and-tumble game that is not all joy.

"A child should be mounted on a pony of the well-bred polo type, that is narrow and flat-sided, for obvious reasons. It should not be a pony that pulls or bores, and should have pronounced withers and longish neck. Many big ponies or small horses are much narrower between a child's legs than are fat little ponies, whose backs rise in lumps far above the deeply embedded back-bone, who carry their saddles perched up and provide the most appallingly uncomfortable rides."

Dr. J. B. Orr, director of the Rowett Research Institute' Aberdeen, has left England on a scientific mission to Australia, where, at the invitation of the Commonwealth Government, he will give advice on the organisation of research in animal nutrition and diseases. He is to be joined en route by Sir Arnold Theiler, late Director in Veterinary Science in South Africa, and one of the world's greatest authorities in Veterinary Research. A contribution toward the expenses of the mission is being made by the Empire Marketing Board.

Messrs. Spillers are responsible for the benching and feeding of the following February Dog Shows:—Llandudno Canine Society, Alsatian League, Chester and District Members, Oxford Members, Liverpool Open, Grimsby Members and Rhyl.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters to the Editor should reach the Office not later than by the first post on Tuesday morning for insertion in following Saturday's issue.

All correspondence must bear the name and address of the contributor for publication.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of his correspondents.

Professional Ethics.

To the Editor of The Veterinary Record.

Sir,—The correspondence from Messrs. Gurth Fenn-Smith and Allan Leslie, draws attention to matters of vital interest to us. The reference to members of Council not being immune to transgressing our laws should be sufficient for a close and fearless enquiry. Furthermore, if anyone has ground for a charge against a member of the Council, it is his duty to prefer it direct, or through his branch of the "National." Our Council must be above suspicion.

Solely for personal advantage, some of our members have, particularly in days gone by, educated grooms, etc., towards that little knowledge which is a dangerous thing—dangerous, heaven knows, to us as well as to the animals. Not until these "Quacks" affect the ledger do we hear a sound, then the "Quack," the Council and everybody are blamed except themselves. True, it has ever been the duty of the Council to take fearless, impartial and drastic action in such matters, but no doubt there were reasons, perhaps personal reasons, for the apathy which prevailed.

History repeats itself, the difference being that instead of makIng male "Quacks" we are now turning out those of the opposite sex. The time is not coming when we shall feel the effect of this—it is Here and Now gaining strength and impetus that will not be easily checked, unless some decided action is taken, and much more *esprit de corps* manifested.

During the past eighteen months I have inserted advertisements in the daily papers for the purpose of getting information. Out of the scores of replies there was only one with any serious intention of qualifying: the rest wanted to get experience in veterinary work to start on their own, to be able to attend to their own dogs and those of their friends, to get jobs with some of the animal welfare people or to become matrons of Dogs' Homes. To obtain the services of these girls (and in most cases to be paid a premium) for nothing has distinct advantages to the individual, but, to my mind, they are not nearly sufficient to warrant one becoming a traitor to one's profession.

There are many veterinarians to-day training, or who have trained, women to the extent of their acting in the capacity of unqualified assistants. To anyone but a friend they would be described as Secretaries, Nurse-Secretaries, Nurses, Kennel Maids, etc. It should, Sir, be perfectly obvious that unless care is taken in the training of these women, and keeping them strictly to lay duty, each and every one of them is a potential "Quack" who is going materially to affect the practice of some one of us.

I am a hearty supporter of the movement to increase the number of lady graduates in our profession, but the very real danger of unqualified women seems to have been overlooked.—I am, Sir, Yours faithfully, Reg. F. Wall.

128 Queen's Road, Bayswater,
London, W.2.
January 31st, 1928.

Splenectomy in Domestic Animals.

To the Editor of The Veterinary Record.

Sir,—There is a foot-note to the Abstract I prepared of Dr. Quinlan's splenectomy operations which I desire to correct. I have come across a much earlier reference to abdominal section in the horse than the one quoted by me.

Just over ninety-eight years ago, Mr. King, of Stanmore, recorded in the *Veterinarian* for December, 1829, that he opened the abdominal cavity of a mare suffering from intestinal obstruction and with his hand kneaded the hard mass of material in the intestines.

This is, doubtless, the first recorded case in British practice.—Yours faithfully, F. Smith.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

To the Editor of The Veterinary Record.

Sir,—It is generally understood that cold conduces to the survival (or growth) of the virus. We are told that in hot countries the disease disappears with heat, sunlight and high temperature. Would it be possible to raise the temperature of the cowshed to summer heat and, with artificial sunlight, find out if the virus ceased its activity, as treatment in this country is out of the question?

It might be managed in the case of some gentleman who owns a valuable pedigree herd and who declines to slaughter on account of value. His cowshed with his permission and perhaps assistance could be heated up to a safe temperature for the cattle, and the results carefully observed.—Yours faithfully, W. Summers.

Milescott,
Allendale.
February 1st., 1928.

The Editor acknowledges the receipt of the following:—

Communications from Messrs. W. Scott and P. Welch.